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月刊 ヤングガンガン ジョーカー

JOKER

新連載開始!!

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Episode3:Banquet of the golden witch

TVアニメ放送中!

◆原作・総監修:竜騎士07
◆作画:夏海ケイ

TVアニメ第2期スタート!
「裏のあらし!」小林尽

劇場アニメ化決定!
「文学少女"と死にたがりの道化」

キャラクター原案:イリヤ

表紙・巻頭
「文学少女"と死にたがりの道化」

描き下ろしポストカードセット
夏海ケイ/鈴木次郎/

「文学少女"と死にたがりの道化×××」
両面描き下ろしポスター

OCTOBER
2009
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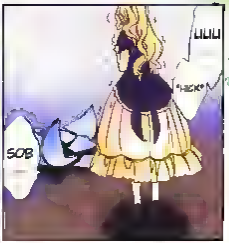
Episode 5: Banquet of the Golden Witch



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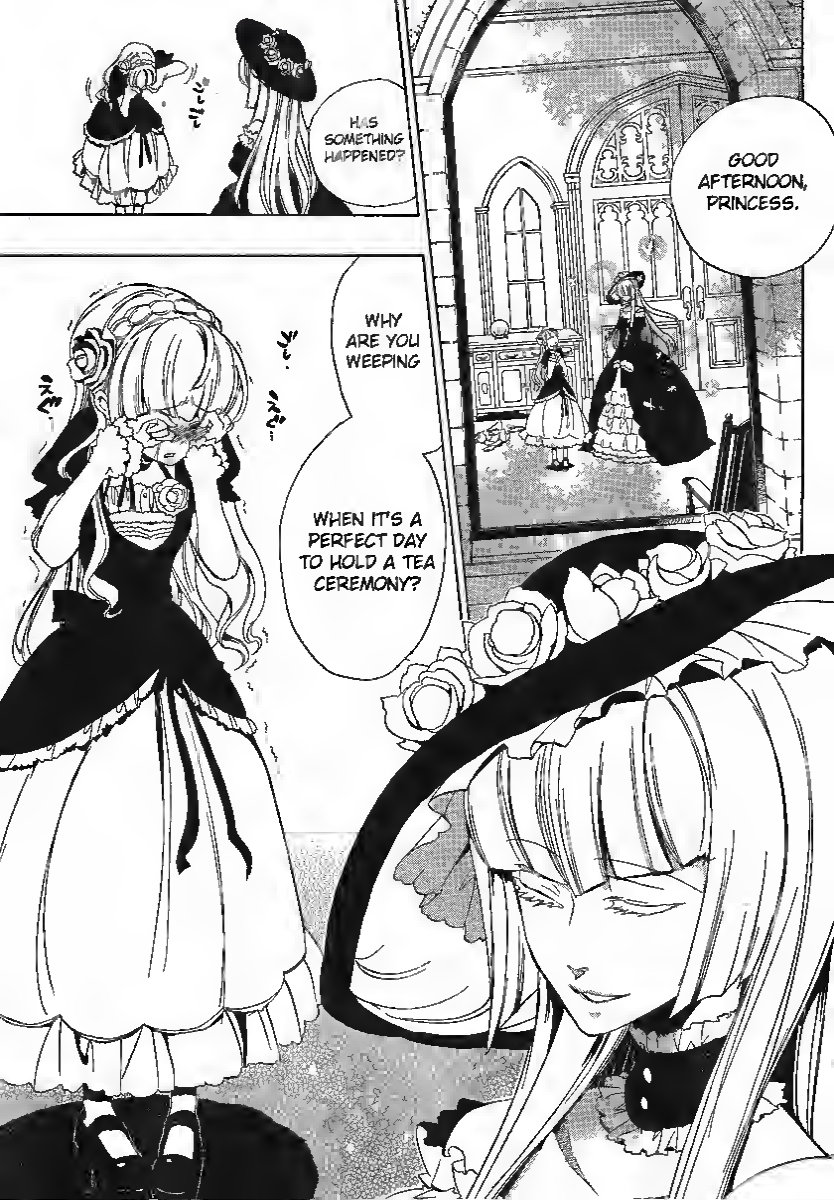
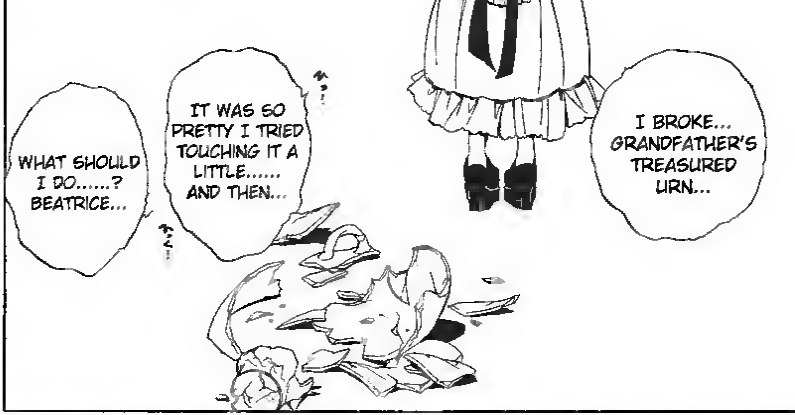
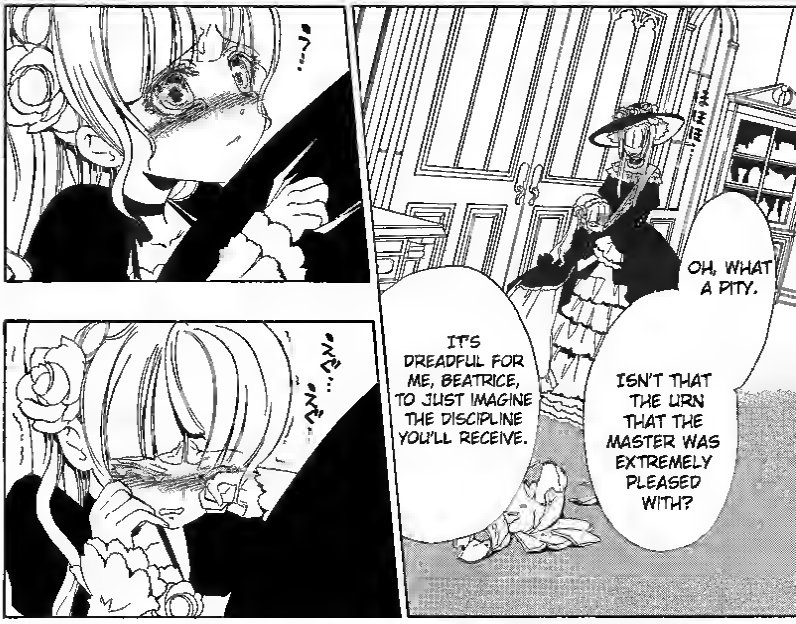
07th Expansion presents Welcome to Rokkenjima "WHEN THEY CRY 8"
Episode3:Banquet of the golden witch
CHAPTER 1 [THE ENDLESS WITCH]
原作・監修:竜騎士07
作画:夏海ケイ
©竜騎士07／07th Expansion
待望の新エピソード!!
理解不能!!
ミステリーがファンタジーに浸食される
マンガの続きは25ページへ!
BEATRICE !!!
10月1日より、ガンガンONLINEにて
Episode4:Alliance of the golden witch
連載開始!!!


GOOD AFTERNOON, PRINCESS.
WHY ARE YOU WEEPING WHEN IT'S A PERFECT DAY TO HOLD A TEA CEREMONY?
HAS SOMETHING HAPPENED?

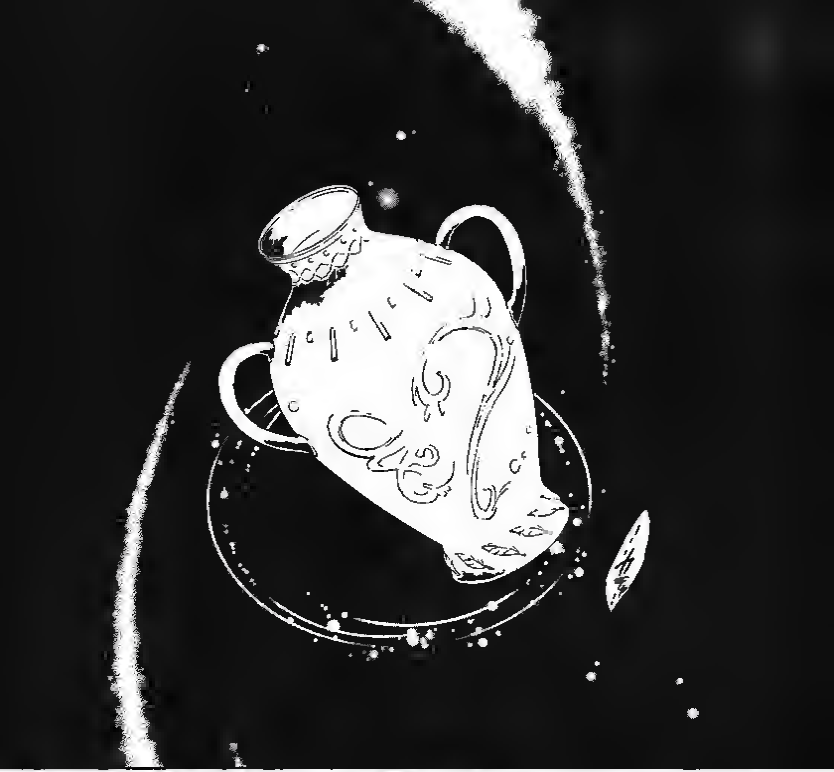

I BROKE... GRANDFATHER'S TREASURED URN...
IT WAS SO PRETTY I TRIED TOUCHING IT A LITTLE..... AND THEN...
WHAT SHOULD I DO.....? BEATRICE...

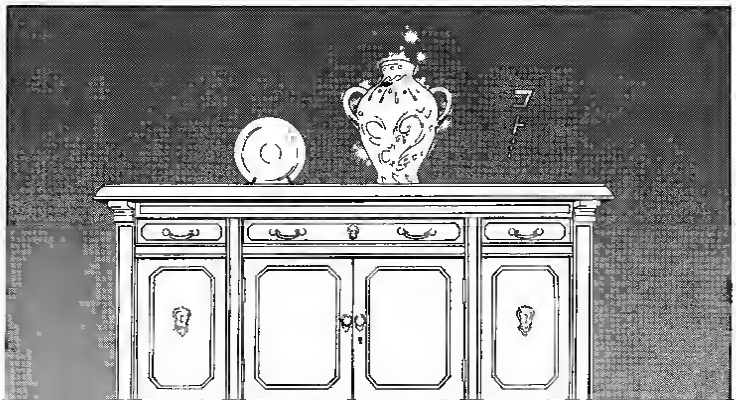

OH, WHAT A PITY.
ISN'T THAT THE URN THAT THE MASTER WAS EXTREMELY PLEASED WITH?
IT'S DREADFUL FOR ME, BEATRICE, TO JUST IMAGINE THE DISCIPLINE YOU'LL RECEIVE.

I DON'T HAVE THE MAGIC TO GATHER THE TEARS YOU'VE SHED
BUT IF IT'S MAGIC TO SPARE YOU FROM THE MASTER'S DISCIPLINE
THEN I CAN PROBABLY HELP SOMEWAY OR ANOTHER.
.....R-
REALLY?
IF YOU BELIEVE IN MY MAGIC... THEN YES.
THE SOURCE OF MAGIC COMES FROM THE POWER TO BELIEVE
MIRACLES WILL ONLY BE SHOWN IN FRONT OF THOSE WHO STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT.

I....
I BELIEVE
...!
I BELIEVE IN BEATRICE'S MAGIC!
SO PLEASE FIX THIS URN! I BEG OF YOU...!
...THEN LEAVE IT TO ME, BEATRICE.

WELL NOW, PLEASE CLOSE YOUR EYES
AND, PLEASE, REMEMBER
WHAT FORM YOU HAD.
SURELY YOU HAD A VERY VERY BEAUTIFUL FORM.
PLEASE SOMEHOW SHOW ME THAT FORM ONCE MORE .....

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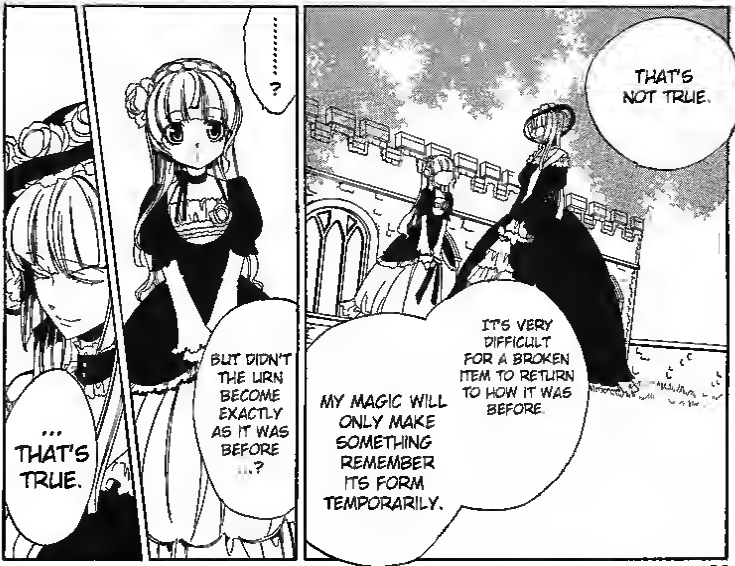
LOOK, WITH THIS ...
THE MASTER WON'T SCOLD YOU.

YOU'RE AMAZING BEATRICE!
THE URN THAT YOU FIXED IS BACK TO NORMAL!


THAT'S NOT TRUE.
IT'S VERY DIFFICULT FOR A BROKEN ITEM TO RETURN TO HOW IT WAS BEFORE.
MY MAGIC WILL ONLY MAKE SOMETHING REMEMBER ITS FORM TEMPORARILY.
.....?
BUT DIDN'T THE URN BECOME EXACTLY AS IT WAS BEFORE ...?
... THAT'S TRUE.

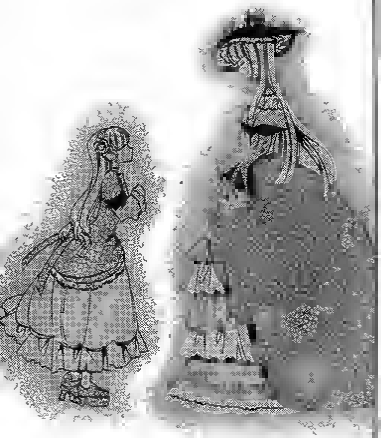
.....?
THE MAGIC POWER TO CHANGE ITS FATE OF BEING BROKEN AND RETURN IT TO ITS PREVIOUS FORM IS OF AN ADVANCED LEVEL THAT EVEN I HAVE YET TO ATTAIN.
BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN IT CAN AVOID THE FATE THAT "THE URN BROKE".
ガチャ
ガチャ
?
KYAAHH
WHAT HAPPENED?
A STRAY BLACK CAT SCRAMBLED ON TOP OF IT AND IT FELL...
ISN'T THIS... THE URN THAT THE MASTER TREASURES?
CLEAN IT UP
HURRY!

DO YOU UNDERSTAND NOW?
.....
SINCE YOU BROKE THE URN BEFORE, THE FATE THAT "THE URN BROKE" WAS SET.
ALTHOUGH MY MAGIC CAN TEMPORARILY RESTORE THE URN, IT'S NOT AS IF I'VE CHANGED THE FATE THAT IT "BROKE"
WHICH IS WHY THE URN REMEMBERED ITS ORIGINAL FATE AND "BROKE".
BUT THE ONE THAT BROKE IT WASN'T ME
IT WAS CHANGED SO THAT A STRAY CAT DID IT...

...
YES.
WITH THIS, YOU WON'T BE SCOLDED BY THE MASTER, SO YOU CAN RELAX, RIGHT?
...
IT'S VERY EASY TO BREAK SOMETHING
AND IT'S VERY DIFFICULT TO FIX SOMETHING.
IT'S THE SAME WITH MAGIC.
THE MAGIC TO BREAK OR MURDER IS VERY SIMPLE.
CONSEQUENTIALLY, FAINT-HEARTED WITCHES THAT LOSE TO TEMPTATION BECOME INTOXICATED WITH THIS POWER THAT'S EASY TO MASTER AND BECOME NEGLIGENT IN LEARNING REAL MAGIC.

IT CAN CALL BACK HAPPINESS THAT HAS DISPERSED,
CALL BACK LOVE THAT HAS COOLED DOWN,
REAL MAGIC IS THE POWER TO FIX.
POWER THAT CAN RESTORE.
AND CALL BACK THE SMILES ON THE FACE OF THE PRINCESS THAT HAS FORGOTTEN HOW TO SMILE.

THE WITCH OF INFINITY ...



...

WHICH MEANS THAT, SINCE YOU CAN FIX AN URN, YOU'RE A GREAT WITCH?

I'M STILL IN THE PROCESS OF TRAINING

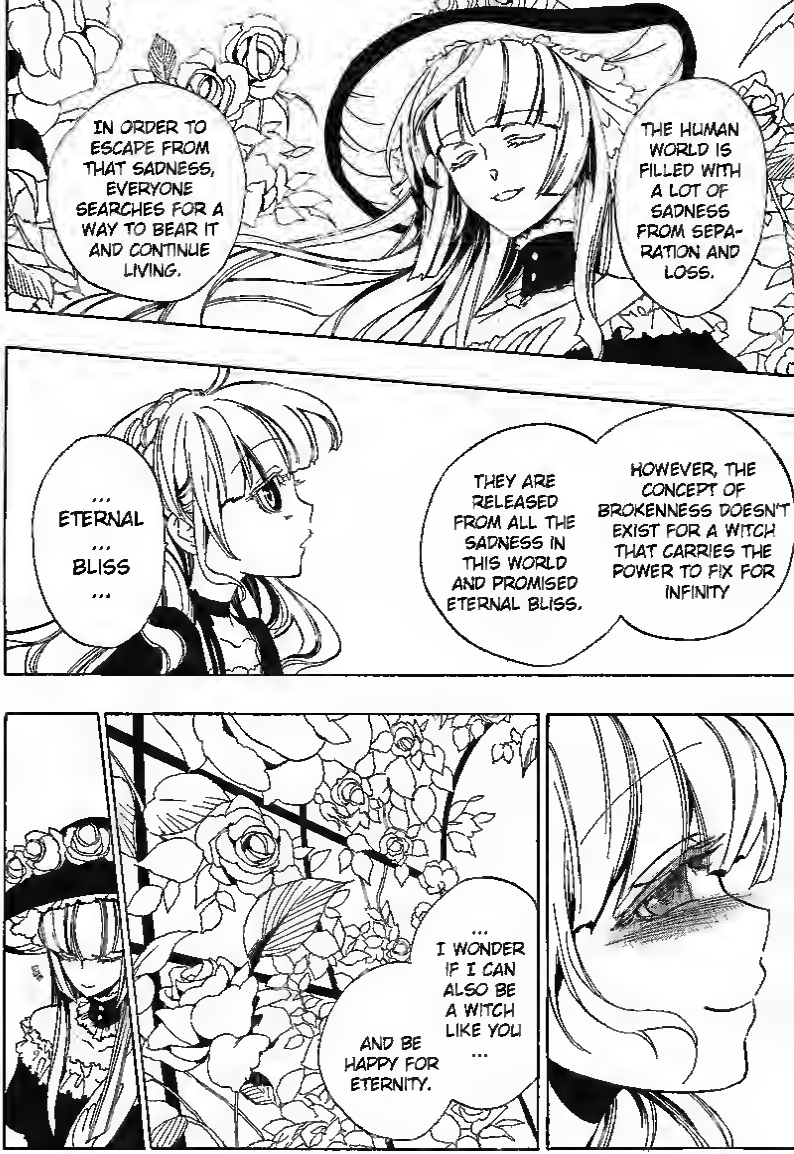
I'M SURE THAT THE GREAT MASTER THAT TAUGHT ME MAGIC IS ABLE TO RESTORE AN URN TO ITS PREVIOUS FORM.

YES.

THAT'S THE LEVEL OF INFINITY THAT A WITCH SHOULD REACH.

EVEN IF IT'S BROKEN AGAIN AND AGAIN, SHE CAN FIX IT AS MANY TIMES AS SHE WANTS...?

WE HOLD THE GREATEST REVERENCE FOR THAT WITCH, SO WE CALL HER...


IN ORDER TO ESCAPE FROM THAT SADNESS, EVERYONE SEARCHES FOR A WAY TO BEAR IT AND CONTINUE LIVING.
THE HUMAN WORLD IS FILLED WITH A LOT OF SADNESS FROM SEPARATION AND LOSS.
... ETERNAL ... BLISS ...
THEY ARE RELEASED FROM ALL THE SADNESS IN THIS WORLD AND PROMISED ETERNAL BLISS.
HOWEVER, THE CONCEPT OF BROKENNESS DOESN'T EXIST FOR A WITCH THAT CARRIES THE POWER TO FIX FOR INFINITY
... I WONDER IF I CAN ALSO BE A WITCH LIKE YOU ... AND BE HAPPY FOR ETERNITY.

I WANT TO BECOME A WITCH!
YOU... PRINCESS?
YOU'LL HAVE TO GO THROUGH EXTREMELY LONG AND DIFFICULT TRAINING, YOU KNOW? DON'T YOU FEEL EVEN THE LEAST BIT OF HESITANCE?
I WANT TO BECOME YOUR DISCIPLE!
NOT AT ALL!
I WANT TO BECOME A WITCH...!

...UNDERSTOOD.
THEN I'LL ALLOW YOU TO BECOME MY DISCIPLE UNTIL YOU'VE HAD ENOUGH.
WILL YOU CALL ME GREAT MASTER ...?
YES, GREAT MASTER...!

YES, GREAT MASTER ...!
EVEN I'M STILL IN THE PROCESS OF TRAINING. LET'S TRY OUR BEST TO LEARN MAGIC TOGETHER THE PROPER WAY AND AIM FOR A LEVEL OF GREAT EXTREME BLISS.
THEN, FROM NOW ON, LET'S LEARN THE ABYSS OF MAGIC AHEAD OF US

A DREAM
...
HUH
...?
...
SUCH A
NOSTALGIC
FACE
...

NOW I FEEL LIKE TALKING TOGETHER WITH THE GREAT MASTER.
DID WE HAVE TRUE "HAPPINESS" AT THE END OF OUR TRAINING?
AND WHAT IS TRUE HAPPINESS .....?
NOW I FEEL LIKE TALKING TOGETHER. .....

NOW I'VE INHERITED THE NAME OF BEATRICE, THE GOLDEN WITCH.
THE HIGHEST TITLE, THE WITCH OF INFINITY, CAN ONLY BELONG TO ONE PERSON...

"THE WITCH OF INFINITY IS RELEASED FROM ALL SADNESS AND IS PROMISED ETERNAL BLISS"
WHAT NONSENSE
NOW I HAVE NO TROUBLE
WITH KILLING FOR INFINITY AND RESTORING FOR INFINITY.
THERE'S INFINITE BOREDOM
THE HIGHEST POINT TO ATTAIN... ETERNAL BLISS. IN OTHER WORDS, IT'S SAID THAT THERE'S NOTHING GREATER THAN

AND SURELY THIS INFINITE BOREDOM,
IS A DEADLY POISON THAT CAN KILL ALL WITCHES.

THE GREAT MASTER COULDN'T ATTAIN THAT LEVEL
I'VE ATTAINED THE LEVEL OF INFINITY, BUT THINK OF THE SITUATION...
"THE MOMENT YOU THINK YOU'VE ATTAINED THE LEVEL OF INFINITY IS THE MOMENT YOU REGRET THAT YOU'RE INEXPERIENCED."
"THERE'S NO END TO YOUR TRAINING"
SFX: HAHAHA HAHAHA HAHAHAHAHAHAHA
はは
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BEATRICE-SAMA
I'M INEXPERI-ENCED?
WHAT A LAUGH! WHAT A LAUGH!

FIX THIS GUY, QUICKKK
I'M NEXT! MEEE-----
IT'S BECAUSE YOU GUYS ARE GREEDY THAT HE BREAKS AS SOON AS BEATRICE-SAMA FIXES HIM!
THIS GUY CAN'T MOVE ANYMORE AGAINNN-----
EVEN THOUGH WE HAVEN'T PLAYED ENOUGH YETTT-----
THEY MAKE AS MUCH NOISE AS THEY WANT AND BREAK AS MUCH AS THEY WANT.
AFTERWARDS, THEY'LL ONLY ALLOW ME TO CLEAN UP
THEY'RE TRULY FURNITURE THAT I CAN'T GET TIRED OF.

NOW THEN, PLEASE TRY TO REMEMBER.
WHAT FORM DID YOU HAVE?
AT ANY RATE, RIGHT NOW YOU APPEAR TO BE ONLY SCRAPS OF FLESH.
IF YOU YOURSELF CAN REMEMBER, THEN I CAN REMEMBER YOUR FACE AS WELL.

GOOD MORNING, BATTLER USHIROMIYA.

OWWW
.....
OW
GOUH
HOW'S IT LIKE EXPERIENCING THE PAIN OF DEATH SO MANY TIMES?
HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I RESURRECTED YOU SO FAR? IS IT A NUMBER I CAN COUNT WITH THE FINGERS ON BOTH OF MY HANDS?
HEHEH... HEHEHEH YOU CONSIDER THIS HELL?
SHALL I TEMPT YOU BY SAYING THAT IF YOU'D ONLY RECOGNIZE ME AS A WITCH, THEN YOU'LL GO STRAIGHT TO HEAVEN?
I'M THE RULER OF MT PURGATORY
THERE'S NO WAY TO LEAVE THIS HELL WITHOUT MY FORGIVENESS

IT'S USELESS! IT'S ALL USELESS!
NO MATTER HOW YOU TORTURE ME, I ABSOLUTELY WILL NOT RECOGNIZE YOU AS A WITCH.
I ABSOLUTELY WILL NOT SURRENDER ...!
AFTER EXPERIENCING THAT LAST GAME,
HOW DARE YOU STILL INSULT ME WITH SUCH IMPRUDENT TALK!
SURELY THAT'S WHY I CAN'T GET TIRED OF YOU,
BATTLER USHIROMIYAA!

I FIXED THAT FOR YOU, SEVEN SISTERS OF PURGATORY
YOU CAN PLAY WITH IT AS MUCH AS YOU WANT AGAIN
THANK YOU VERY MUCHH---!!
クスクス
クスクス
クスクス...
...IT'S TOUGH BEING SUCH A POPULAR MAN
DAMN IT, YOU'RE ALL LINED UP IN ORDER...
TRYING TO SO TOUGHH-- NOW, LET'S PLAY, BATTLER-KUN
NOO----- THIS TIME IT'S MY TURNN--!
WELL THEN, BATTLER
I'LL CONTINUE WHAT I WAS SAYING BEFORE.

ON THE SECOND NIGHT OF THE SECOND GAME,
AFTER THE CULPRIT LOCKED THE ROOM WITH THE MASTER KEY, HOW DID HE RETURN THE KEY TO THE POCKET OF THE CORPSE INSIDE OF THE ROOM?
... WELL, FOR EXAMPLE ...
HE COULD HAVE USED A FISHING LINE OR SOMETHING FROM THE CRACK OF THE DOOR TO RETURN THE KEY...
KYAHHA HAHAH AHA
YOOOOOU FAILL!!!

U...GH...
HOW UNFORTU-NATE.
ALL OF THE DOORS THAT EXIST IN ROKKENJIMA DO NOT HAVE CRACKS THROUGH WHICH A KEY COULD GO THROUGH
THIS IS THE UNSHAKABLE TRUTH.

HEH .....
WHEN I SPEAK USING RED LETTERS, IT IS THE ABSOLUTE TRUTH. THERE'S NO ROOM FOR SUSPICION!
NOW, WHAT'S WRONG, BATTLER?
EXPLAIN THE CLOSED ROOM ON THE SECOND NIGHT USING HUMANS AND TRICKS.
SO IT APPEARED...
YOUR SPECIALTY, THE RED TRUTH...
UGH... UGH
...YOU DARE TO ENDURE ALL OF THIS, HUH?
YOUR FALSE ACT OF ENDURANCE ONLY PROVES TO ENTERTAIN US, YOU KNOW.
THE BACK OF YOUR HAND? YOUR KNEECAP?
THE NOSE ON YOUR HEAD?
NOW, WHAT PART SHOULD I GORGE NEXT!?

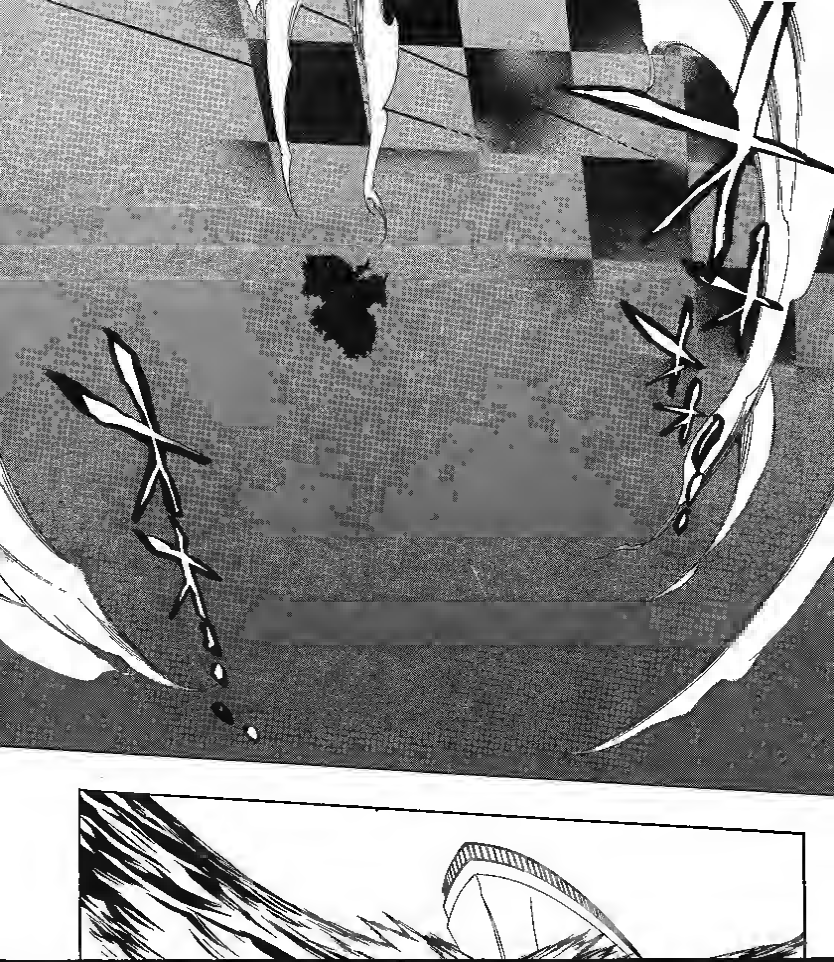
THIS FALSE ACT OF ENDURANCE AND MY STUBBORNNESS ARE MY SPECIALTY
IF YOU THINK I'LL SURRENDER WITH JUST THIS, THEN YOU'VE GREATLY MISTAKEN ..
EVEN THOUGH YOU CAN'T EXPLAIN ANYTHING USING HUMANS AND TRICKS!?
NOW YOU'LL BE CRYING AND WISHING YOU HAD RECOGNIZED HER AS A WITCH.
YOU STILL DON'T KNOW YOUR PLACE!
NOW, YOU'LL WANT TO ASK FOR FORGIVENESS WHILE PITIFULLY PROSTRATING YOURSELF.

AHHH, HE'S ALREADY BROKENNN. BEATRICE-SAMAA ~~~ FIX HIM QUICKLY~~~~

WE SHOULD TORMENT HIM SOME MORE
WITH MY MAGIC, I CAN RESURRECT HIM AS MANY TIMES AS I WANT AND SIMPLY BREAK HIM AGAIN
NOW, BATTLER. ONCE AGAIN, YOU SHOULD REMEMBER YOUR PREVIOUS FORM.
EVEN DEATH ITSELF WON'T SUFFICE AS A KEY TO ESCAPING FROM MY CAGE
TO THE WITCH OF INFINITY, THERE'S NO MEANING TO LIFE OR DEATH.
I'LL PLAY WITH YOU AS MUCH AS I WANT, YOU KNOW?
I SEE I'M TRULY PLEASED THAT YOU'RE A TOY THAT I CAN PLAY AS MUCH AS I WANT FOR ETERNITY.

I SEE, I SEE
IS THIS THE EXTREME BLISS THAT A WITCH THAT REACHES THE STAGE OF INFINITY CAN ACQUIRE?
THIS IS CERTAINLY HAPPINESS AND EXTREME BLISS!
I CAN RESURRECT YOU AND KILL YOU AS MANY TIMES AS I WANT?
NOOW, WHAT KIND OF MURDER CASE WILL UNFOLD IN THE NEXT GAME!?

COME NOW, THERE'S A NEW GAME BOARD!
SHOULDN'T WE START THE NEXT GAME!? BATTLER USHIROMIYAAA !!!



OCTOBER 4TH, 1986　10:00

YOU STILL HAVEN'T FIXED YOUR HATRED OF VEHICLES, BATTLER---!?
AHHAHAHA HAHAHA
UU--! FALL, FALL-----!
WHOOOOOAH
I'M GONNA FALL I'M GONNA FALLLLL!!!
SFX. NOOOOO!

ARGH, SHEESH!!
IF YOU WANT TO SMOKE, THEN SMOKE SOMEWHERE ELSE!
CIGARETTES !!
I'M ALWAYS TELLING YOU TO STOP!!
(HEH
AH, SORRY, EVA LOOK, RUDOLPH-KUN, LET'S GO OUT TO THE DECK.
Rank Number 3
Kinzou's Eldest Daughter
Eva Ushiromiya

...REMEMBER

EVA USHIROMIYA

EVERY YEAR, EVERY YEAR... WHEN IT'S TIME FOR THE ANNUAL FAMILY CONFERENCE, HER CHARACTER CHANGES...
.....REMEMBER ME.....
.....REMEMBER ME.....

...REMEMBER YOUR PROMISE WITH ME
ONCE AGAIN, THE SETTING IS OCTOBER 4TH, 1986.
TO ROKKENJIMA, WHICH THE WITCH BEATRICE RULES OVER.
月号へつづく
10月22日(木)発売

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http://wtdnd.honya-ch.com/

THE PURPOSE OF THE UPCOMING FAMILY CONFERENCE...

THIS FAMILY CONFERENCE IS SUCH A BOTHER.
I'M PRETTY SURE THAT KRAUSS-ANIKI IS USING THE OLD MAN'S ASSETS.
IF WE PUSH THAT ISSUE, THEN WE CAN BLACKMAIL KRAUSS-NIISAN FOR MONEY... HOW UNPLEASANT ...
Kinzou's Second Son
Ushiromiya Rudolph

AS COMPANY PRESIDENTS, YOU, ME, AND ROSA, ARE BURDENED BY THE LIFESTYLES OF COMPANY EMPLOYEES...
BUT EACH ONE OF US URGENTLY NEEDS THAT MONEY...
YEAH, I HAVE BEEN DONE IN BY MY VERY OWN TRUSTED EMPLOYEES AS WELL.
IT'D BE BAD IF WE DON'T DRAG MONEY OUT OF KRAUSS-NIISAN EVEN AFTER GRABBING HIM BY THE COLLAR.
Eva's Husband
Ushiromiya Hideyoshi
GUESS WE'LL HAVE TO GO AND SOLVE IT ONCE AND FOR ALL WITH KRAUSS NII-SAN..
I'M READY FOR ANYTHING, TOO, EVEN KNEELING DOWN TO THE GROUND..

ANEKI'S HAD A BAD RELATIONSHIP WITH ANIKI SINCE AGES AGO. SHE'S PROBABLY ON EDGE BECAUSE WE HAVE TO HAVE AN ALL-OUT CONFRONTATION WITH HIM.
SO, HAS EVA ALWAYS BEEN ON BAD TERMS WITH KRAUSS NIISAN ...?
YES, IT'S PARTI-CULARLY BAD.
SHOULDN'T YOU ASK HER YOURSELF?
ANEKI'S ALWAYS BEEN SMART AND CLEVER.
...SHE REGRETS THE FACT THAT SHE WAS BORN A WOMAN.
SHE PROBABLY CAN'T FORGIVE HER MEDIOCRE ANIKI FOR HAVING BEEN CHOSEN TO SUCCEED AS THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY JUST BECAUSE HE WAS BORN A MAN
SHE PROBABLY DOESN'T WANT TO REMEMBER SUCH THINGS

A YOUNG GIRL'S WISHES FROM THE OLD DAYS
...
THEY'RE TOO SUBLIME, AND TOO CRUEL
...
うみねこのなく頃に
Episode 3 : Banquet of the golden witch
原作・監修：竜騎士07／作画：夏海ケイ
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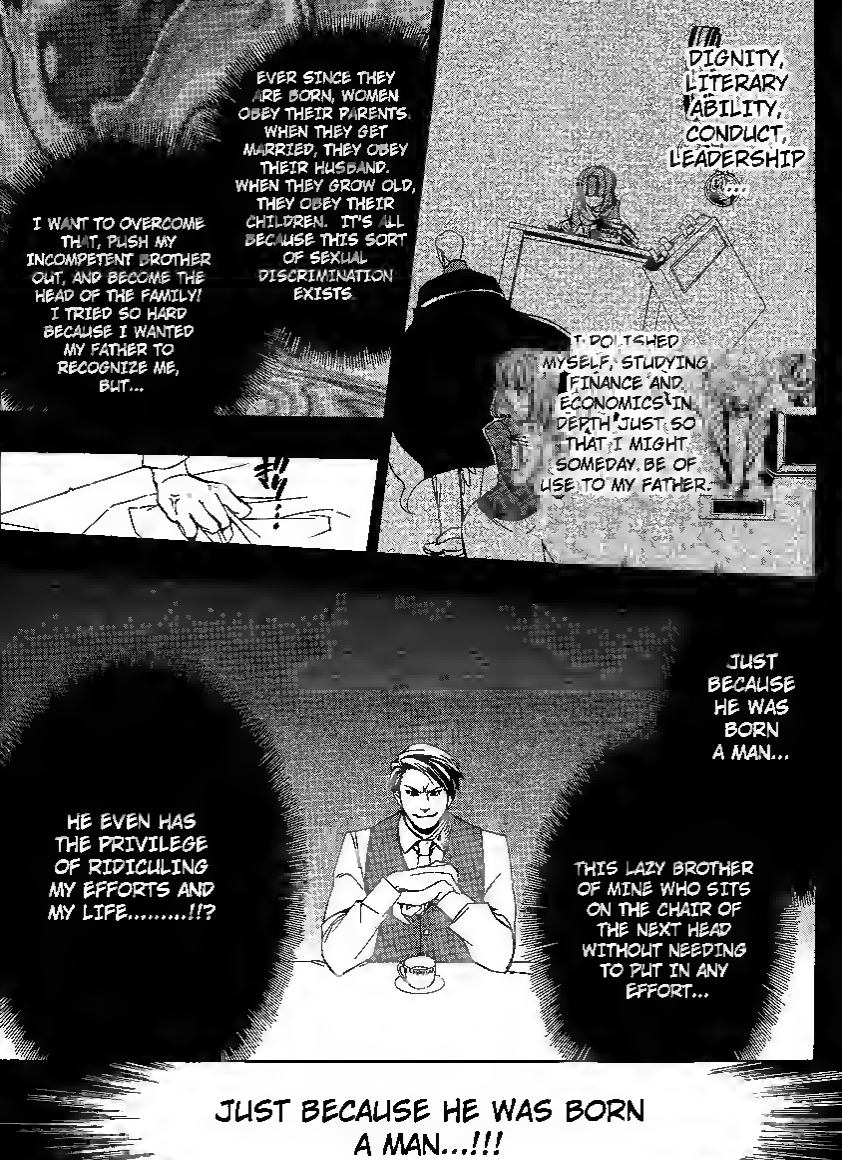
DON'T YOU THINK A WOMAN'S LITERARY ABILITY IS LIKE THE SUGAR USED IN TEA?
IF THERE'S NONE, THEN THERE'S NO FLAVOUR,
BUT IF THERE'S TOO MUCH, THEN IT'LL RUIN THE TASTE OF THE TEA.

KRAUSS -NIISAN?
SO EDUCATION IS UNNECESSARY FOR WOMEN?
ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY THAT IT'S IMPERTINENT FOR ME TO CONTINUE ON TO GRADUATE SCHOOL JUST BECAUSE I'M A WOMAN?
I WON'T SAY THAT MUCH.
JUST THAT YOU CAN GET TIRED SPEAKING WITH AN ILLITERATE WOMAN.
BUT YOU CAN GET EVEN MORE TIRED SPEAKING WITH A WOMAN THAT IS TOO INTELLIGENT.
EVA, I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT A SELF-ASSERTIVE, VIOLENT WOMAN LIKE YOU WILL TROUBLE YOUR FUTURE HUSBAND.

ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY THAT WOMEN SHOULD GET MARRIED AND HIDE IN THEIR HUSBAND'S SHADOW!?
THAT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!
I WANT ASSIST FATHER AS HIS RIGHT HAND MAN!
WHAT'S SO STRANGE ABOUT WANTING TO GO TO GRADUATE SCHOOL FOR THAT VERY PURPOSE!!?
...
I CAN RESPECT YOUR FEELINGS
FOR WANTING TO HELPFUL AS FATHER'S DAUGHTER.
HOW DISGUSTING! WHAT'S WITH USING "WATASHI"!?
EVEN THOUGH UNTIL RECENTLY YOU'VE BEEN USING "ORE" TO ADDRESS YOURSELF. ARE YOU ALREADY PRETENDING TO ACT AS THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY!?
EVA
...

THE FACT THAT I, THE OLDEST SON, WOULD BE THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY HAS BEEN DECIDED SINCE THE MOMENT I WAS BORN.
YOU'VE BEEN HALLUCINATING ABOUT BEING ABLE TO BECOME THE HEAD AND ACTING RASHLY TO DO SO.
ACTING ... RASHLY ...!?
I WILL BECOME GREAT. AS THE DAUGHTER OF KINZOU USHIROMIYA, I WILL WEAR THE FAMILY CREST AND BECOME A PROPER PERSON BY ALWAYS EXERTING MYSELF.


I WANT TO OVERCOME THAT, PUSH MY INCOMPETENT BROTHER OUT, AND BECOME THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY! I TRIED SO HARD BECAUSE I WANTED MY FATHER TO RECOGNIZE ME, BUT...
EVER SINCE THEY ARE BORN, WOMEN OBEY THEIR PARENTS. WHEN THEY GET MARRIED, THEY OBEY THEIR HUSBAND. WHEN THEY GROW OLD, THEY OBEY THEIR CHILDREN. IT'S ALL BECAUSE THIS SORT OF SEXUAL DISCRIMINATION EXISTS.
I DISHED MYSELF, STUDYING FINANCE AND ECONOMICS IN DEPTH JUST SO THAT I MIGHT SOMEDAY BE OF USE TO MY FATHER.
DIGNITY, LITERARY ABILITY, CONDUCT, LEADERSHIP...
JUST BECAUSE HE WAS BORN A MAN...
THIS LAZY BROTHER OF MINE WHO SITS ON THE CHAIR OF THE NEXT HEAD WITHOUT NEEDING TO PUT IN ANY EFFORT...
HE EVEN HAS THE PRIVILEGE OF RIDICULING MY EFFORTS AND MY LIFE.....!!?
JUST BECAUSE HE WAS BORN A MAN...!!!

SOONER OR LATER, OUR FATHER WILL PROBABLY ARRANGE FOR YOU TO MARRY THE MOST PROFITABLE PARTNER, BUT WHAT'S DESIRED IS NOT EXCESS LEARNING.
THE AFFECTION TO GIVE BIRTH TO CHILDREN, RAISE THEM, AND CARE FOR YOUR HUSBAND, THE ABILITY TO PERFORM HOUSEWORK, AND A RESERVED ATTITUDE WHEN FACING YOUR HUSBAND ARE IMPORTANT.
NEVERTHELESS, AS OF YET, YOU'RE STRONG-MINDED LIKE A MAN, BAD AT HOUSEWORK AND COOKING, AND YOU DON'T EVEN WEAR THE SLIGHTEST AMOUNT OF MAKEUP.
ESSENTIALLY, IT FITS WHAT YOU SAID ABOUT BEING A "DAUGHTER THAT CAN HELP FATHER", DOESN'T IT?
RECENTLY, YOU'VE EVEN GONE AS FAR AS TO LEARN HOW TO FIGHT.

WOMEN EXIST FOR THE SAKE OF SERVING MEN.
A WOMAN'S JOB IS TO PROTECT HER HUSBAND'S BACK, PROTECT HER FAMILY, AND RAISE HER CHILDREN.
HOW RUDE! MARTIAL ARTS ARE THE MOST SUITABLE FOR TRAINING ONE'S HEART! AND YOU'VE ONLY BEEN SCOLDING ME ABOUT TRAITS BEFITTING OF A WOMAN!
... I'M TELLING YOU THIS IN ORDER TO AMEND YOUR MISUNDER-STANDINGS.
I'M BASICALLY TRYING TO MAKE YOU REALIZE THIS WITH MY WORDS
I'M TEACHING YOU, MY UNAWARE SISTER, AS YOUR OLDER BROTHER IT'S SOMETHING YOU SHOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR

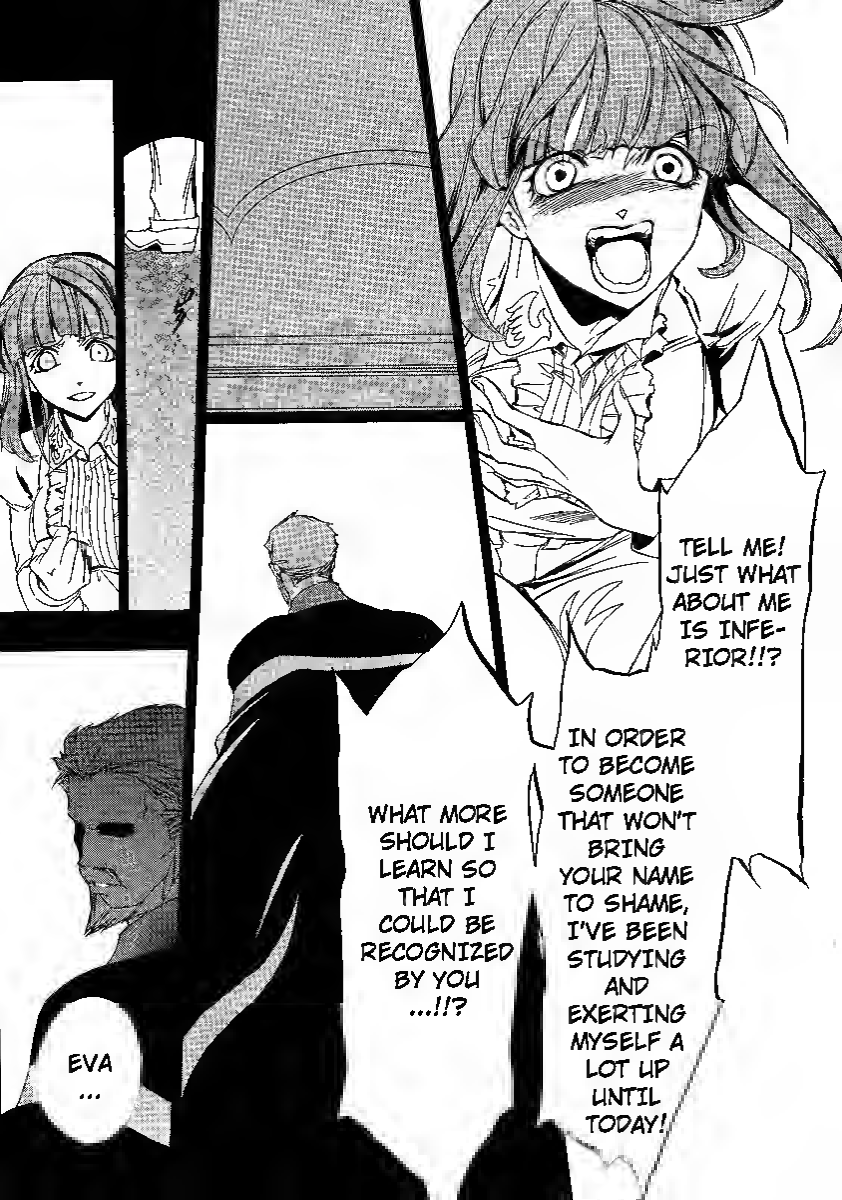
HOW AM I INFERIOR TO YOU IN ANY WAY!?
THAT IS AN INSULT TO ALL WOMEN ...!!
NO, I'VE NEVER THOUGHT OF MYSELF AS A WOMAN AND I'VE NOT ONCE BEEN SPOILED FOR BEING A WOMAN!!
I SURPASS YOU IN JUST ABOUT EVERY-THING!
AS SOMEONE WHOSE ONLY GOOD POINT IS BEING A MALE, WHAT PART OF ME CAN YOU EVEN LOOK DOWN ON!!?
.....
WHAT IS SO UNSATISFACTORY ABOUT THAT?

YOU'RE ASKING WHAT'S SO UNSATIS-FACTORY ...!?
JUST WHAT IS SO UNSATISFACTORY THAT YOU FEEL THE NEED TO LUNGE AT ME?
FOR ARGUMENT'S SAKE LET'S SAY YOU WERE BORN A MAN YOU STILL WOULD NOT BE THE ONE TO SUCCEED AS THE HEAD
JUST BECAUSE I HAVE NO POWER TO DO ANYTHING ...
YOU'RE ALWAYS, ALWAYS LOOKING DOWN ON ME BECAUSE YOU'LL BE THE SUCCESSOR ...
EVEN THOUGH I WOULD BE A MUCH MORE APPROPRIATE SUCCESSOR .....!!!
JUST BECAUSE OF THAT ...
UUUU ... UU ...!
.....!!

FATHER!
HOW NOISY.
.....
WHAT IS IT?
GODS AREN'T THE ONLY ONES THAT VALUE SILENCE.

HII...
KRALISS! FIGHTING WITH YOUR SIBLINGS AGAIN!!? WHY DO YOU NOT HAVE ANY DIGNITY AS THE OLDEST SON!?
YOU'RE IMMATURE IN JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING!! IT'S A HUNDRED YEARS TOO EARLY FOR YOU TO BE ACTING LIKE AN ADULT!!
I CAN'T GRIEVE ANY MORE OVER WHAT A BAD SON YOU ARE...!!!

... YES... IN ORDER TO BECOME A PROPER HEAD OF THE FAMILY ...
I WILL PUT IN MORE EFFORT ...
F-FATHER!


TELL ME! JUST WHAT ABOUT ME IS INFE-RIOR!!?
IN ORDER TO BECOME SOMEONE THAT WON'T BRING YOUR NAME TO SHAME, I'VE BEEN STUDYING AND EXERTING MYSELF A LOT UP UNTIL TODAY!
WHAT MORE SHOULD I LEARN SO THAT I COULD BE RECOGNIZED BY YOU ...!!?
EVA ...

WHAT PURPOSE DO YOU HAVE AS A WOMAN!!? DO YOU UNDERSTAND YOUR OWN ROLE!!!?
YOUR DESIRE TO LEARN IS JUST YOU PRETENDING TO BE A MAN!
I CAN'T FEEL A WOMAN'S PREPAREDNESS FROM YOU!!
WOMEN SHOULD LEARN COOKING AND SEWING LIKE A PROPER LADY!
YOU'RE STILL SAYING THAT !!?
I DON'T EXPECT ANYTHING FROM YOU !!!

I WILL TRY TO BECOME SOMEONE THAT WON'T BRING YOUR
AS A MEMBER OF THE USHIROMIYA FAMILY,
... I ...
WITH THAT STATEMENT, YOU'RE ALREADY MISTAKEN !!
CAN YOU EVEN PLEASE A MAN!?
TO ME, YOUR ROLE IS TO MARRY A PROFITABLE MAN AND GIVE BIRTH TO A CHILD !!!
DO YOU HAVE ANY TEA ETIQUETTE!? DO YOU HAVE ANY TALENT IN COOKING!?

IF YOU WON'T LISTEN TO WHAT YOUR FATHER SAYS, THEN LEAVE! I'LL DISINHERIT YOU!!
KRAUSS WILL SUCCEED THE USHIROMIYA FAMILY!
F...
FATHER
MASTER HAS NOT DONE ANYTHING WRONG.
WHY, GENJI? DID I DO SOMETHING WRONG?
WHY ARE MY CHILDREN LIKE THIS?
FATHER, HANG IN THERE! PLEASE CALM DOWN!
I'LL DISI-NHERIT YOU, I'LL DISI-NHERIT YOU!
COUGHHH COUGH COUGH COUGH
EVA, TAKE YOUR LEAVE IT'S NOT HIS TRUE FEELINGS I'LL CALM HIM DOWN

DID I TAKE THE WRONG PATH .....?
IT'S TRUE THAT I HAVEN'T LEARNED HOW TO BECOME THE PROPER LADY THAT MY FATHER WANTED ME TO BE ..
MY BROTHER HAS BEEN UNREASONABLY SEXIST TOWARDS ME EVER SINCE I WAS YOUNG...
IN ORDER TO REBEL AG INST HIM, I TRIED TO BETTER MYSELF SO THAT I COULD SNATCH THE POSITION OF THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY FROM MY BROTHER..
NO MATTER HOW MUCH MORE I STUDY, MY FATHER WON'T RECOGNIZE ME BECAUSE I'M A WOMAN... I'LL CONTINUE TO BE LOOKED DOWN ON BY MY BROTHER FOREVER...
... THEN THE BASIS FOR MY LOVE OF LEARNING WAS JUST A COMPLEX TOWARDS MY BROTHER...?

NO
YOU VOWED TO ME THAT I'D BECOME THE SUCCESSOR OF THE USHIROMIYA FAMILY.
I, EVA USHIROMIYA, WILL DEFINITELY BECOME THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY.
AND I'LL TRIUMPH OVER THAT ARROGANT KRAUSS.

IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THAT,
WE PROMISED THAT DAY THAT WE'RE TRY OUR BEST TOGETHER.
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, EVA USHIROMIYA?

...YOU'RE.....
...THERE WERE DAYS WHEN
I HONESTLY THOUGHT I WAS
BORN MERELY IN ORDER TO BE
LOOKED DOWN ON BY MY BROTHER.....

AND WHEN I FINALLY COULDN'T UNDERSTAND THE MEANING OF LIVING
SHE CAME OUT FROM WITHIN ME.
WITH EFFORT, MY ANGER DISSIPATED AND I IMPROVED MYSELF. IF I BECAME A PERSON SUITABLE TO BE HEAD OF THE FAMILY AND WAS RECOGNIZED BY MY FATHER, THEN I COULD TRIUMPH OVER MY BROTHER.....
WAS TAUGHT THAT THE WOUNDS THAT MY BROTHER INFLICTED ON MY HEART COULD BE HEALED
SHE WAS MY ONE AND ONLY FRIEND.
BUT ARE YOU GOING TO BREAK THAT PROMISE?
...WE VOWED THAT WE'D TRY OUR BEST UNTIL THAT DAY CAME.
WORTHLESS! YOU'VE GOT NO GUTS!
WHY DON'T YOU JUST GIVE UP AND DIE...?

THEN LET'S DEVOTE ANGER TOWARDS STUDYING
EVEN THOUGH IT'S MY OWN SELF SAYING IT TO MYSELF, I'M OFFENDED YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO GO THAT FAR.
.....
I HAVE THE MAGIC TO REPLACE ANGER WITH POWER
USING THIS POWER, I'VE SAVED YOU MANY TIMES AND HELPED YOU ACCOMPLISH WHAT YOU SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO DO.
SO LET'S STUDY MORE AND MORE AND CHASE DOWN KRAUSS.
DUE TO THIS MAGIC, YOU DON'T HAVE ANYTHING THAT YOU CAN'T DO

NO MATTER HOW MUCH MORE EFFORT I PUT IN, I CAN'T TRIUMPH OVER MY FATHER NOR MY BRO-THER...
SINCE I'M A WOMAN, FATHER WON'T ALLOW ME TO BECOME THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY.
...IT'S USE-LESS...
FATHER AND KRAUSS ARE THE WORST KINDS OF ADVOCATES OF MALE SU-PREMACY
THEY SHOULD JUST GO DIE QUICKLY.
I... WONDER IF I SHOULD JUST AIM AT BECOMING THE LADY THAT FATHER WANTS ME TO BE.
IF I DO THAT, THEN FATHER MIGHT GET A BETTER OPINION OF ME...
MY BROTHER IS MY BROTHER AND I AM MYSELF. WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO FIND OUR OWN WAYS OF LIVING.

ISN'T THAT THE SAME AS STEALING THE POSITION OF THE HEAD FROM MY BROTHER.....?
MY BROTHER IS NOT YET ENGAGED, SO IF I GIVE BIRTH TO ONE BEFORE HE DOES... THEN THE NEXT HEAD OF THE FAMILY AFTER MY BROTHER WOULD BE MY CHILD.
AND... I'M A WOMAN, SO I CAN GIVE BIRTH.
.....
ARE YOU THROWING YOUR DREAM AWAY?

...BUT THAT'S THE MOST REALISTIC METHOD...!
I'M BECOME AN ADULT THE TIME FOR US TO SEPARATE HAS COME
...TRUE. YOU'RE ALREADY AN ADULT.
NOW YOU'RE THE MOTHER OF THE FIRST CHILD.
YOU LEFT BEHIND THE MAGIC TO FULFIL YOUR OWN DREAM AND FORCED IT ONTO YOUR SON.
SINCE YOUR OWN LIFE WAS MESSED UP BY YOUR FATHER AND BROTHER, YOU TOO ARE MESSING UP YOUR SON'S LIFE.

GEORGE IS A SON THAT ONE CAN BE PROUD OF! HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO FULFILL THE DREAM THAT I WAS NOT ABLE TO CARRY OUT...!
...WHAT AM I SAYING....
AND MY BROTHER'S DAUGHTER JESSICA IS A WOMAN. IF JESSICA IS REFUSED, THEN GEORGE CAN BECOME THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY...
AREN'T I JUST FORCING MY OWN REGRETS ONTO GEORGE...?
ISN'T IT HORRIBLE TO ATTRIBUTE THE VERY WORDS THAT TORMENTED ME TO JESSICA...?
WE WILL BECOME THE HEAD OF THE USHIROMIYA FAMILY.
DON'T FORGET THAT DREAM

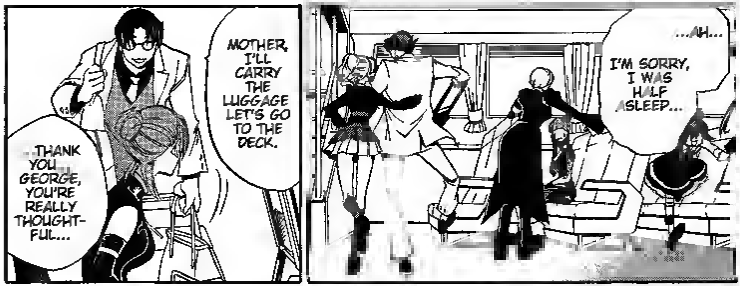
AFTER ALL, THE RULE THAT SAYS THAT "WOMEN CAN'T SUCCEED AS THE HEAD" WAS ONE COINED BY FATHER.
ONCE FATHER CHANGES HIS MIND, THEN IT CAN EASILY BE BROKEN.
AND THAT DAY WILL COME FOR SURE!
BECAUSE THAT IS
MY MAGIC.
...HOW...
CAN YOU SAY FOR SURE...?

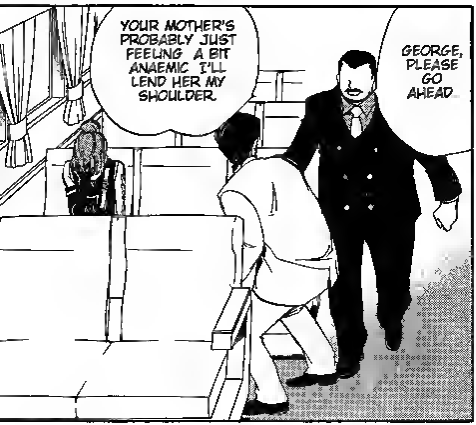
THE SOURCE OF MY MAGIC COMES FROM MERELY YOUR POWER TO BELIEVE.
SO BELIEVE THAT MY MAGIC CAN DEFINITELY FULFIL YOUR WISHES.
...IF I USE THAT MAGIC...
THEN I WILL PROBABLY PASS MY DAYS WITHOUT EVER DOUBTING THAT THAT DAY WHEN I COULD BECOME HEAD WOULD COME...
WHAT IF... THE DAY THAT A MIRACLE OCCURS WILL REALLY...
MY MAGIC CAN DEFINITELY FULFIL ANY WISH NO MATTER WHAT.

THEN LISTEN CAREFULLY.
TO THE WORDS OF MY MAGIC.
...I BELIEVE...
I BELIEVE, SO USING THAT MAGIC, HAVE A MIRACLE OCCUR.
IF YOU CONTINUE TO BELIEVE IN THIS MAGIC, THEN WE CAN BECOME THE HEAD OF THE USHIROMIYA FAMILY.

SO CLEAR YOUR EARS AND LISTEN CAREFULLY...
THE RIVER OF SWEETISH THAT RUNS THROUGH MY DEAR HOME TOWN. THOSE SEARCHING FOR THE GOLDEN LAND GO DOWN THIS RIVER AND SEARCH FOR THE KEY... , ...

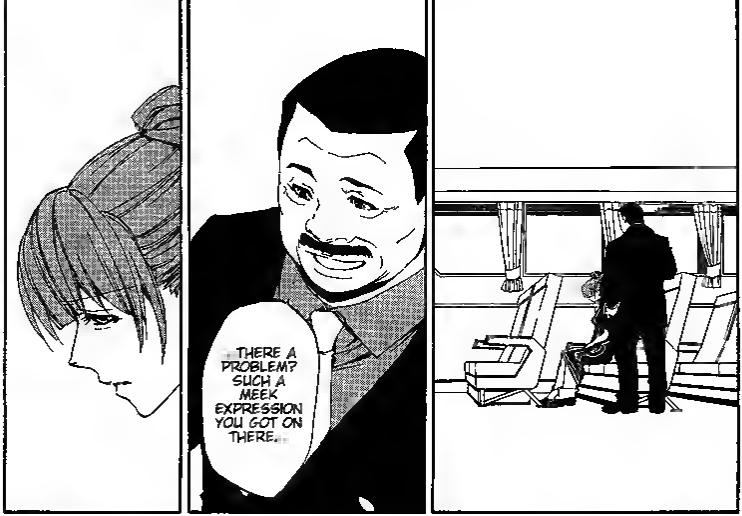
EVA-NEESAN, WE'VE ARRIVED AT THE ISLAND.


MOTHER, I'LL CARRY THE LUGGAGE LET'S GO TO THE DECK.
THANK YOU GEORGE, YOU'RE REALLY THOUGHT-FUL....
...AH... I'M SORRY, I WAS HALF ASLEEP...


GEORGE, PLEASE GO AHEAD
YOUR MOTHER'S PROBABLY JUST FEELING A BIT ANAEMIC I'LL LEND HER MY SHOULDER.

WHAT'S WRONG, MOTHER? DO YOU FEEL SICK OR ANYTHING?

.....

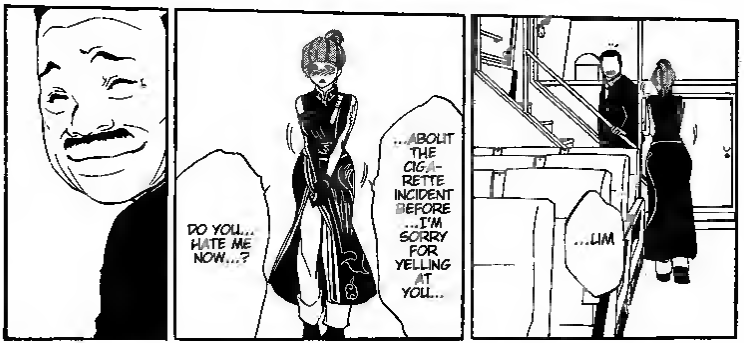

...THERE A PROBLEM? SUCH A MEEK EXPRESSION YOU GOT ON THERE...

SFX: AHH...
I... I USED GEORGE AS A TOOL FOR MY OWN REVENGE, HAVEN'T I...?
I'VE BEEN PLAYING WITH THAT CHILD'S LIFE AS IF IT WERE A TOY, HAVEN'T I...?
JUST WHAT HAVE I... WHAT HAVE I...!?
EVA, YOU DONE NOOOOOTHIN' WRONG!
EVEN IF WE SAY FOR ARGUMENT'S SAKE THAT YOUR OWN EXPECTATIONS WERE MIXED IN, YOU'VE RAISED A SON THAT YOU CAN BE QUITE PROUD OF.
ISN'T IT ALL RIGHT IN THE END!?

REALLY?
DOESN'T RESENT ME OR ANY-THING, RIGHT? IS THAT RIGHT?
IS IT!? IS IT!?
YEAH, IT'S TRUE. YOU'RE JUS WORRY-ING FOR NO RE SON.
YOU HAD ANOTHER NIGHTMARE, RIGHT?

THAT WAS JUS' A DREAM.
I'M WIT YA NOW.
IF I GRASP YOUR HANDS LIKE THIS, THAT DREAM WILL GO AWAY
RIGHT? LOOK, SQUEEEEEZE.
GIGGLE
THAT HURTS

...THANK YOU...
I'M ALL RIGHT NOW...


DO YOU... HATE ME NOW...?
...ABOUT THE CIGARETTE INCIDENT BEFORE ...I'M SORRY FOR YELLING AT YOU...
...UM

NOW NOW, LET'S GO, LET'S GO.
COURSE NOT, COURSE NOT!
わっはははは

HOW UN-USUAL.
THERE AREN'T ANY SEAGULLS. .
PROBABLY BECAUSE OF THE TYPHOON COMING.
THEY WENT ON BACK TO THEIR NESTS OR SOMETHING
WELCOME TO ROKKENJIMA. PLEASE ENJOY YOUR VISIT.
EVA-SAMA, YOUR HAND PLEASE?
HEAD HOUSE SERVANT TOSHIROU GOUDA
THANK YOU, GOUDA-SAN

WELCOME
HOME...

OUR DREAM WILL DEFINITELY COME TRUE.
IT'S A PROMISE.
IF NOT, THEN THE WOUNDS ON YOUR HEART WILL NEVER BE HEALED.....
.....NO
...NOTHING'S WRONG...
HM? THERE A PROBLEM?

WHAT PURPOSE AM I LIVING FOR..?
WHAT MUST I DO TO BE RE-LEASED FROM THESE DEEPLY-ROOTED DELUSIONS .....?
A CRUEL FATE AWAITS EVA ONCE MORE-----!!

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IHIHI!
うみねこのなく頃に
Episode 3 : Banquet of the golden witch
IT'S BEEN 6 YEARS SINCE I'VE STOOD ON THIS SHORE!
CHAPTER 3: I DEVIL'S PROOF I
原作・監修：竜騎士07
作画：夏海ケイ
©竜騎士07/07th Expansion
THE ADULTS MAY HAVE RUINED THE AIR IN THE MANSION.
BUT THIS IS A NICE BREEZE!
8TH RANKED USHIROMIYA BATTLER

WHOA, THAT'S COLD!
MARIA TOO
7TH RANKED
USHIROMIYA GEORGE
BATTLER-KUN, YOU REALLY HAVE GOTTEN TALLER
6 YEARS AGO, I NEVER COULD HAVE IMAGINED YOU'D GROW UP THIS WAY
YOU GUYS REMEMBER SIX YEARS AGO?
MY MEMORIES ARE ALL FUZZY

MARIA DOESN'T REMEMBER SIX YEARS AGO EITHER
JUST MET BATTLER FOR THE FIRST TIME
9TH RANKED USHIROMIYA MARIA
THAT'S RIGHT. MARIA WAS ONLY 3 YEARS OLD BACK THEN.
I KNEW IT WAS YOU RIGHT AWAY, BATTLER.
AS SOON AS YOU OPENED YOUR MOUTH, I WAS SURE
6TH RANKED USHIROMIYA JESSICA
BUT YOU HAD SOME TROUBLE REMEMBERING US, BATTLER
THAT HURTS, YOU KNOW?

SERVANT
SHANNON
I REMEMBER IT LIKE IT WAS JUST YESTERDAY
...
IS THAT SO?
WELL, IT'S BEEN 6 YEARS, YOU KNOW?
IT'D BE WEIRDER IF I REMEMBERED
...
DO YOU REMEMBER ANY WEIRD STUFF HE DID SIX YEARS AGO, SHANNON?
YOUR MEMORY IS SO GOOD, SHANNON
DO YOU REMEMBER HOW BATTLER-KUN WAS LIKE SIX YEARS AGO?
WELL
...
IF I RECALL, HE SAID THIS WHEN IT WAS TIME TO LEAVE
...

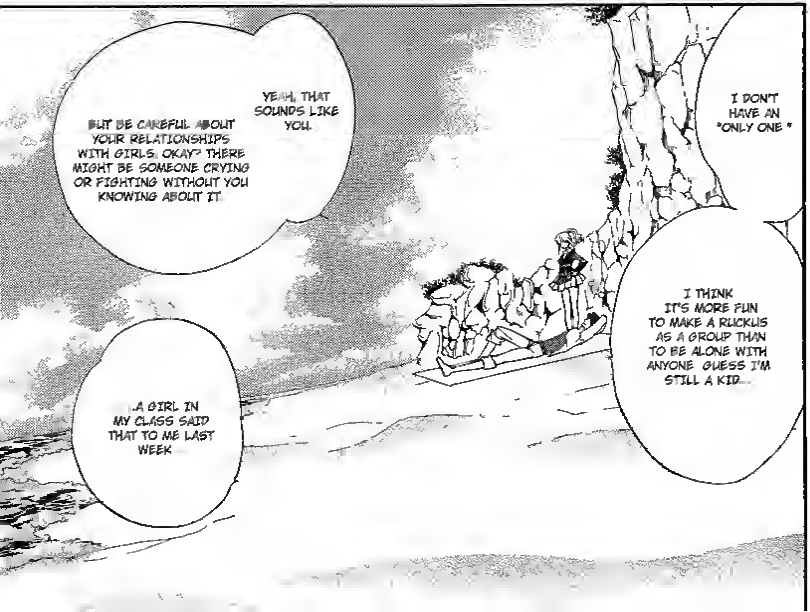
I'LL COME BACK FOR YOU ON A WHITE HORSE.
I'LL BE BACK <SEE YOU AGAIN>
T/N: BRACKETS INDICATE THAT HE IS SPEAKING IN ENGLISH.
MH
?

GYAAAAAAAAAAAAH!!!
はははは
はははは
SFX: GYAHAHAHAHA
NOOOO
YES, I'M SURE HE DID SAY THAT!
HAH, I BET HE DID! YEAH, I REMEMBER, BATTLER WAS FULL OF THOSE STUPID LINES SIX YEARS AGO!

SFX:GYAHAHAHAHAHA
BATTLER'S EMBARRASSED?
YEAH, TOTALLY EMBARRASSED ...
MARIA, WHEN YOU GET TO MIDDLE SCHOOL, YOU MIGHT WANT TO SAY THAT EMBARRASSING STUFF, TOO... AT THOSE TIMES, WRITE IT DOWN, REREAD IT THREE TIMES, AND THINK ABOUT WHETHER YOU SHOULD REALLY SAY IT...
NOOOOOO!
<SEE YOU AGAIN!?
THEN SHANNON, YOU'LL HAVE TO TELL ME LATER WHEN BATTLER-KUN ISN'T AROUND.
UNDERSTOOD.
<SEE YOU AGAIN!? PFFTAHAHAHA!
NOOOOOO!
THAT HABIT OF SAYING STUFF WITHOUT THINKING ABOUT IT FIRST... I SHOULD FIX IT...
HEY, SHANNON~ DO YOU REMEMBER ANY OTHER EMBARRASSING STUFF~?
UM...WELL... I DO...BUT THE PERSON IN QUESTION WANTS TO FORGET, SO I'LL REFRAIN ...

SHH!
WHOA... GEORGE-ANIKI AND SHANNON, HUH...?!
SINCE IT'S LOVE WITH A SERVANT AND ALL, IT SEEMS LIKE THEY'RE DATING IN SECRET FOR NOW THEY ESPECIALLY DON'T WANT EVA OBAA-SAN TO KNOW.
BUT I WONDER IF THEY CAN KEEP IT UP FOR ANOTHER YEAR...
HOH

WHAT ABOUT YOU, BATTLER? YOU GOT A GIRLFRIEND"?
I SEE... I ALSO WAS A LITTLE ATTRACTED TO SHANNON-CHAN IN THE PAST, BUT...
SHE AND GEORGE ANIKI GO WELL TOGETHER...
<GOODBYE>, MY FIRST LOVE...
...NOPE


I DON'T HAVE AN "ONLY ONE"
I THINK IT'S MORE FUN TO MAKE A RUCKUS AS A GROUP THAN TO BE ALONE WITH ANYONE. GUESS I'M STILL A KID...
YEAH, THAT SOUNDS LIKE YOU.
BUT BE CAREFUL ABOUT YOUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH GIRLS, OKAY? THERE MIGHT BE SOMEONE CRYING OR FIGHTING WITHOUT YOU KNOWING ABOUT IT.
...A GIRL IN MY CLASS SAID THAT TO ME LAST WEEK.

HUH?!
W-WHO? ME?
WHAT ABOUT YOU, JESSICA? YOU GOT A BOYFRIEND?
WAHA HAHA
UM, WELL...
...I DID CONFESS ONCE.
BUT I WAS TOTALLY SHOT DOWN
AND I HAVEN'T THOUGHT ABOUT IT SINCE THEN
PRETTY EASY TO TELL FROM THAT RESPONSE
YOU HAVE A GUY YOU LIKE, BUT YOU HAVEN'T CONFESSED YET, RIGHT?
UM, WELL... YOU SEE...

WELL, YOUR STYLE OF SPEECH IS REALLY MANNISH
IF YOU START TRYING TO USE REALLY PROPER SPEECH, MAYBE THAT'LL GET HIS HEART THUMPING
Y... YOU THINK SO ?
I SEE
OKAY
SO YOU STILL HAVEN'T GIVEN UP HUH?! WHO'S THE GUY?
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE WITH A SERVANT, TOO ?
THUMP
THUMP
N-N-N-N-NO, T-T-THAT'S NOT
SO, JESSICA, THIS GUY YOU'RE AFTER
IS HE WITHIN A 1 KM RADIUS OF WHERE WE ARE RIGHT NOW?
UHHHHHHH
I-I...
I WONDER

I DON'T THINK AUNT EVA AND AUNT NATSUHI WOULD TAKE LOVE WITH A SERVANT SITTING DOWN.
THOSE TWO ROMANCES ARE SURE TO HAVE LOTS OF OBSTACLES AHEAD.
THE GUY JESSICA LIKES IS PROBABLY KANON-KUN.
COME TO THINK OF IT, SHE COVERED FOR HIS POOR SPEECH IN THE ROSE GARDEN.
MY FACE IS ALL RED ...

IF YOU WORRY ABOUT PARENTS OR FAMILY, IT'S YOUR LOSS
AND NO ONE NEEDS TO APPROVE THEM BUT THE TWO INVOLVED
WELL
EVERYONE'S GOT THEIR OWN ROMANCES
DON'T MEASURE LOVE BY LOSS AND PROFIT FOLLOW YOUR HEART
AND THAT'S ALL I'VE GOT TO SAY. <SEE YOU AGAIN, HAVE A NICE DAY!>
DON'T SAY THINGS THAT PHILOSOPHICAL WHEN YOU'VE NEVER BEEN IN LOVE! <HAVE A NICE DAY>!
LILI-! <SEE YOU AGAIN!>
NOOOOO!
GVAAA-AAAH, NOOO-OOOO!!
GEORGE NII-SAAAAN! BATTLER SAID SOMETHING STUPID AGAIN!

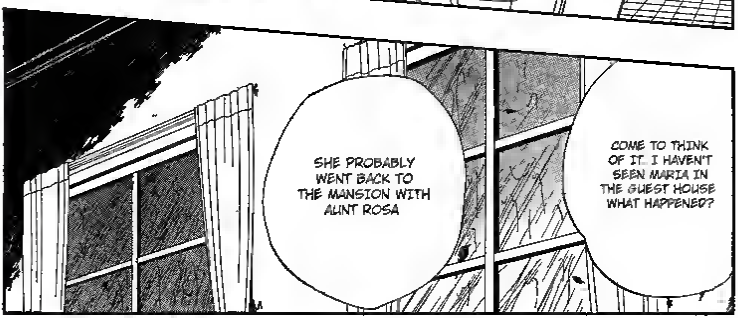
IT'S FUN TO HAVE THE COUSINS TOGETHER LIKE THIS
I HOPE WE COUSINS ALWAYS GET ALONG TOGETHER
A WITCH I KNOW SAID THIS!
HAPPINESS WON'T BE GRANTED UNLESS EVERYONE BELIEVES IN IT!
THAT'S RIGHT. THERE'S MAGIC IN THE POWER OF BELIEF
IF WE ALL BELIEVE, I'M SURE WE'LL FIND HAPPINESS
OKAY! THIS IS A BIT EMBARRASSING, BUT
WHY DON'T WE ALL SWEAR TO BELIEVE THAT?

YEAH!
WE'LL ALWAYS GET ALONG AND BE HAPPY! LET'S ALL BELIEVE THAT TOGETHER!
UU-! IT'S A PROMISE!

COME, LET'S BEGIN THIS TALE OF TRAGEDY!!
COME FORTH, WIND, RAIN, TYPHOON!! SEPARATE THIS ISLAND FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD!!
LIKE I'D LET YOOO-OOOO-OOOO-OOOU!!

THROW ROKKEN-JIMA INTO
THE SPIRIT WORLD, THE DEMON WORLD, THE WORLD OF ILLUSIONS!!
KKKK

WHOA, IT'S REALLY POURING
IS THIS MISTER TYPHOON'S BIG ENTRANCE"?
MARIA-CHAN'S ROSE WILL GET UPROOTED IN THIS WIND
YEAH, IT WAS WITHERING TO BEGIN WITH...


COME TO THINK OF IT. I HAVEN'T SEEN MARIA IN THE GUEST HOUSE WHAT HAPPENED?
SHE PROBABLY WENT BACK TO THE MANSION WITH AUNT ROSA

ゴオオ
ゴオオ

ぬ-
MARIA'S ROSE... ISN'T HERE... ISN'T HERE...
ぬ-
……
WHAT ARE YOU SEARCHING FOR SO DESPERATELY IN THIS RAIN?

...
BEATRICE
...!!
Y...YOU SEE, I CAN'T FIND MY ROSE.
THE ROSE THAT GEORGE ONII-CHAN MARKED...
IT WAS HERE, BUT I CAN'T FIND IT...

I TRIED TO SEARCH FOR IT WITH MAGIC LIKE BEATO, BUT I STILL COULDN'T FIND IT...
...
TOO BAD, MARIA
YOUR ROSE WAS UPROOTED BY THE WIND AND RAIN... IT IS NO LONGER OF THIS WORLD
HOH
NO .. NO, NO!! MARIA WILL REVIVE IT WITH MAGIC!
BEATRICE!! TEACH ME HOW TO RESURRECT IT WITH MAGIC!!
...
VERY WELL, MY APPRENTICE
I SHALL LEND YOU A BIT OF MY POWER
REALLY?!

...IN THAT CASE, MARIA.
CLOSE YOUR EYES AND FOCUS THE POWER OF YOUR HEART
DON'T LOOK. DON'T LISTEN. AND BELIEVE ...
UNLEASH THE POWER OF YOUR SOUL THAT'S TRAPPED IN A CAGE OF FLESH...
SEARCH FOR THE SOUL OF THE WANDERING ROSE WITH THE EYES OF YOUR HEART...

...YOUR POWER IS SMALL, AS ONE WOULD EXPECT FROM AN APPRENTICE
I SHALL SUPPORT YOU.
COME, MARIA, LET US CHANT TOGETHER.
COME, TRY TO REMEMBER.
ROSE, WHAT FORM DID YOU HAVE...?

MARIA, YOU MAY OPEN YOUR EYES NOW.
YOU'VE REMEMBERED A LOVELY FLOWER.
I HAVE MARKED IT WITH A GOLDEN THREAD SO IT WON'T GET MIXED UP WITH THE OTHER ROSES.
UU. WHERE'S MARIA'S ROSE?
NOT THERE. OVER HERE.

AWESOME, AWESOME! THANKS, BEATO! MARIA WANTS TO BECOME A GREAT WITCH LIKE YOU SOON!
...YOU WILL.
I ONCE INNOCENTLY DREAMED OF THE SAME THING, AND ENDED UP WHERE I AM NOW...
...BY THE WAY, MARIA. THERE IS SOMETHING I WANT TO ENTRUST YOU WITH.
AS THE WITCH'S MESSENGER
I WANT YOU TO READ THIS LETTER TO EVERYONE AFTER DINNER.
...WILL YOU DO THAT...?

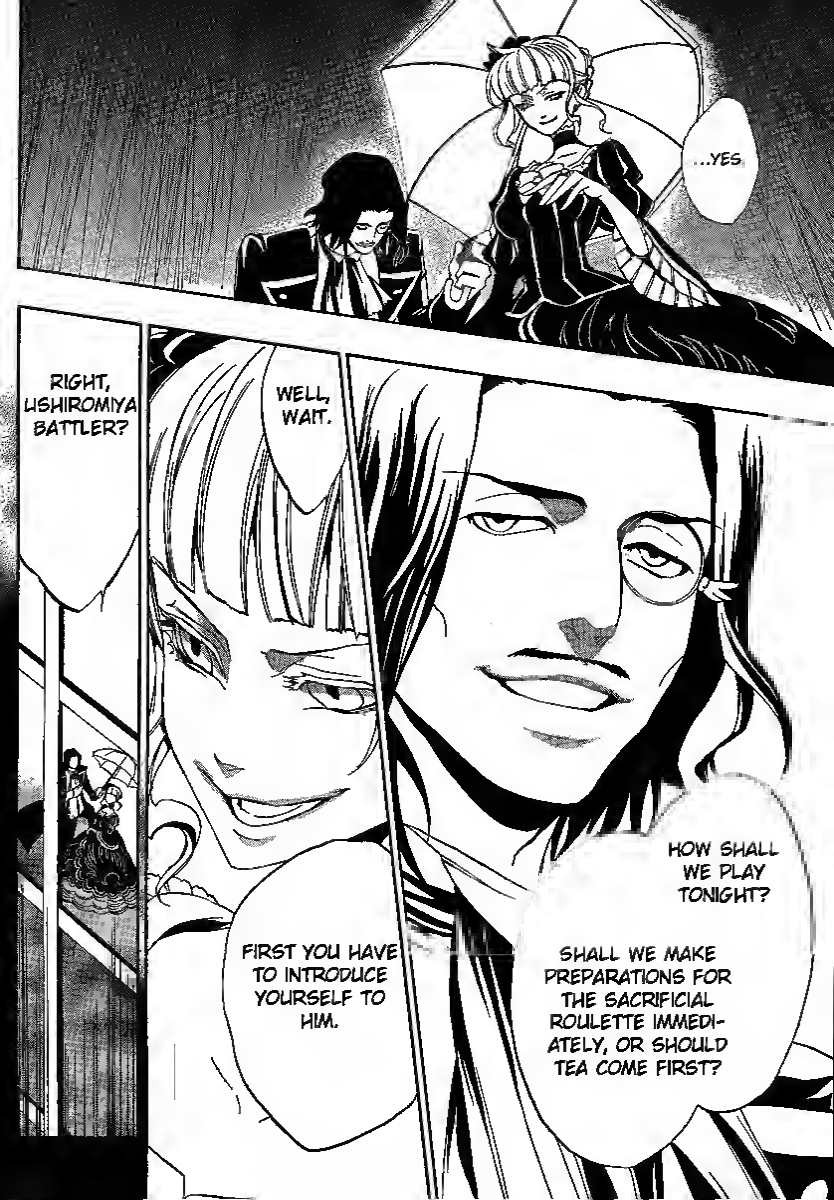
WELL THEN...
I CAME TO PLAY YOUR GAME ONCE MORE...
MY PREPARATIONS ARE COMPLETE.
YOU HAVE PREPARED ENOUGH COINS TO WAGER IN TONIGHT'S GAME, HAVEN'T YOU? KINZO...!!
OF COURSE!!
I AM PREPARED, BOTH PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY! COME, LET US MAKE THE ANTE, BEATRICE!!!
HEAD OF THE USHIROMIYA FAMILY
USHIROMIYA KINZO
TAKE THIS!!
IT WAS BY YOU THAT I WAS BLESSED. SO I MUST RETURN EVERYTHING TO YOU IN THE END!

I DON'T FEEL LIKE LOSING.
YOU BELONG TO ME, FOR ETERNITY ...!!

ドゴォ
!
…HOH…

RONOVE, IS IT...!
IT HAS BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE WE'VE BEEN IN CONTACT.
...MILADY.

PUKUKU...
I HAVE NEVER ONCE FORGOTTEN THAT I, RONOVE, SERVE MILADY.
RATHER, I WAS FEARFUL THAT MY FORGETFUL LADY WOULD NOT REMEMBER ME.
TO THINK YOU REMEMBERED ME. YOU TRULY ARE A DEEPLY LOYAL MAN
KUKU. YOUR SPEECH IS AS IMPUDENT AS ALWAYS.
MANNER OF SPEECH IS NOT COVERED IN MY CONTRACT.
..SHALL I FIX IT?
IT DOESN'T BORE ME, SO IT'S FINE
..THIS IS THE RING OF THE HEAD THAT WAS RETURNED BY USHIROMIYA KINZO.
THE RING HAS ONCE AGAIN COME BACK TO ITS MASTER.


...YES.
RIGHT, USHIROMIYA BATTLER?
WELL, WAIT.
HOW SHALL WE PLAY TONIGHT?
SHALL WE MAKE PREPARATIONS FOR THE SACRIFICIAL ROULETTE IMMEDIATELY, OR SHOULD TEA COME FIRST?
FIRST YOU HAVE TO INTRODUCE YOURSELF TO HIM.

ANOTHER WEIRD GUY'S APPEARED!!
THE WITCH'S BUTLER, YOU SAY?! THIS GUY ISN'T AMONG THE 18 PEOPLE I KNOW...!!
...WHAT THE HELL...
WHO THE HELL IS HE?
DAMN, I DON'T GET IT! CUT IT OUT ALREADY!!
KUKU KUKU KU...

LET'S GET ALONG.
NICE TO MEET YOU, BATTLER-SAMA. I SERVE MILADY BEATRICE AS HER HEAD FURNITURE. MY NAME IS RONOVE.
.....?
HE IS RANKED 27TH AMONG THE 72 DEMONS.
HIS SPEECH IS IMPUDENT, BUT HE'S A USEFUL MAN.
HE TAKES CARE OF MY BUSINESS FOR A HIGH SALARY.
スイ
...WHA
WHAT ARE YOU PLAYING AT?
!?

THIS IS A HANDSHAKE OF CAMARADERIE.
I THINK THAT AS TWO WHO ARE SUBJECT TO MILADY'S SELFISH WHIMS, WE COULD BECOME GOOD FRIENDS.
SORRY, BUT I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF A BIG FIGHT WITH YOUR MASTER.
THE ONLY TIME I SHAKE HANDS WITH AN OPPONENT IS AFTER WE'VE BEATEN EACH OTHER UP ON A RAINY SCHOOLYARD. LIKE A SITUATION YOU'D SEE IN SOME ADOLESCENT DRAMA
HEH
REMEMBER THAT.
...I SEE.

SO IN ORDER TO SHAKE HANDS WITH BATTLER-SAMA, I MUST CREATE THE RIGHT ATMOSPHERE AND USE SWEET WORDS, AND WE MUST COMMUNICATE WITH BODY LANGUAGE?
I ALSO JUST LOVE THOSE KINDS OF SITUATIONS. FUKU-KUKU...!
...WHA ...?!
Y-YOU'RE REALLY CREEPY! I SEE. YOU'RE THE PERFECT BUTLER FOR BEATO.
I WILL TAKE THAT AS A COMPLIMENT IT IS AN HONOR.
ガバッ
OH DEAR. I APOLOGIZE FOR MAKING YOU JEALOUS, MILADY.
AS EXPECTED OF TWO OF THE SAME GENDER YOU'RE ALREADY FRIENDLY I'M JEALOUS.
TEASING ME LIKE THAT...

KUKU...
.. WHAT?!
YOUR MEETING WITH HIM IS A TRUE "DEVIL'S PROOF."
...BY THE WAY, BATTLER.
HAVE YOU NOTICED?
IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PROVE THAT DEMONS "DON'T EXIST."
AFTER ALL, YOU CANNOT DENY THE POSSIBILITY THAT YOU SIMPLY HAVE NOT FOUND ONE YET.
...THEN WHAT ABOUT PROOF THAT THEY "DO EXIST"?
ISN'T IT SIIIMPLE?
CAN'T YOU JUST BRING ONE DIRECTLY, JUST LIKE THIIIS?!

C'MON, C'MON, WITCHES AND DEMONS "EXIST," RIGHT?
.....!
ADMIT THAT I'M A WITCH.
AREN'T YOU STARTING TO FEEL UNSUUURE?
W.. WAIT, WAIT, WAIT!
WHY HASN'T THAT DEMON BUTLER APPEARED UNTIL NOW?!
DOES THIS MEAN SOME-THING?!
BUT WHEN KINZO TRAPPED ME ALONE ON THIS ISLAND I COULD NOT REGAIN MY POWER FOR A LONG TIME.
YOU WON'T ACCEPT IT BUT I AM A FULLY-FLEDGED WITCH. I AM FAMILIAR WITH MANY NON-HUMANS FROM THE DEMON WORLD.
...HMM.

AND THAT'S ALSO THANKS TO YOU, BATTLER!
INDEED! MY FAMILY WILL KEEP APPEARING!
..SO WEIRD GUYS KEEP APPEARING BECAUSE YOU'RE GRADUALLY RECOVERING YOUR POWER...?
YOUR SURRENDERING HEART IS GRADUALLY LETTING ME REVIVE.
YOUR HEART IS STILL WAVERING BECAUSE YOU COULDN'T DENY WITCHES AT THE VERY END...
THE CLOSER YOUR HEART COMES TO SURRENDERING, THE MORE ADVANTAGEOUS THE GAME BECOMES FOR ME.
AFTER ALL, YOU SUFFERED SUCH A HUMILATING DEFEAT LAST GAME. YOU JUST BARELY MADE IT, BATTLEER

I THOUGHT THAT AS LONG AS I DENIED WITCHES, I COULD GET BY WITH WILL-POWER...
BUT THEN I'M ONLY ON THE DEFENSIVE ...
ONE DAY, SHE'LL OVERCOME MY RESISTANCE. ....AND I'LL LOSE...?!
TRYING TO INFLICT ENDLESS TORTURE ON AN ENDLESS WITCH IS JUST RIDICU-LOUS
I WILL OPEN THE DOOR TO THE GOLDEN LAND
AND BUILD A NEW CASTLE ON ROKKENJIMA
...

OF COURSE, I WILL INVITE KINZO'S FAMILY AS WELL. AND YOU TOO, IF YOU WISH.
AND THEN I WILL INVITE ALL OF MY FURNITURE AND FRIENDS TO DRINK AND DANCE FOR THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS.

LOOK, LOOK!
ON THE GAME BOARD, THE DECLARATION OF THE GAME'S START IS BEING READ ALOUD!
THINGS WILL GET INTEREST-ING FROM HERE ON OUT!
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~WHEN THEY CRY~
Episode 3
Banquet of the golden witch

WELL THEN, PLEASE ENJOY THIS LITTLE INTELLIGENCE CONTEST WITH KINZA-SAMA AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE TONIGHT.
I PRAY FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART FOR TONIGHT TO BE AN INTELLECTUALLY ELEGANT NIGHT.
...
BEATRICE THE GOLDEN.
HOW RIDICULOUS! FATHER WOULD NEVER GIVE UP THE RING OF THE HEAD!
SOMEONE'S TRYING TO FLUSTER US BY USING THE NAME OF A WITCH! IT'S OBVIOUSLY A PRANK!
待望の連戦再開!!

"A WOMAN CANNOT SUCCEED THE HEAD" IS A RULE FATHER DECIDED ON.
IF FATHER CHANGES HIS MIND, HE CAN EASILY REVOKE IT.
AND THAT DAY WILL DEFINITELY COME.
IF THE GOLD IS EXPOSED, I WILL RETURN EVERYTHING
OKAY, WHO CAME UP WITH THIS PRANK?
...IF IT WAS DAD, THIS ISN'T SOMETHING WE CAN LAUGH OFF...
THE ENVELOPE AND WAX SEAL LOOK LIKE FATHER'S
BUT CAN WE BE SURE THEY'RE THE REAL THINGS...?
IT'S OBVIOUS THAT THE ENVELOPE IS REALLY FATHER'S, ROSA!!
IDIOT! DIE, YOU BRAINLESS MORON!

IF WE INTERPRET THIS ACCORDING TO THE CONTENT OF THE LETTER, THIS IS A TEST FROM FATHER
THIS LETTER IS SAYING THAT HE'LL HAND OVER THE HEADSHIP AND FORTUNE TO WHOEVER SOLVES THE EPITAPH ON THE PORTRAIT FIRST!
THE FACT THAT I, THE OLDEST SON, WOULD BECOME THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY HAS BEEN DECIDED SINCE THE MOMENT I WAS BORN.
KRAUSS NII-SAN'S RIGHT TO THE TITLE OF SUCCESSOR HAS BEEN RETURNED TO A BLANK SLATE.
SEE...

OUR MAGIC... GRANTED YOUR WISH
WHOEVER SOLVES THE EPITAPH AND FINDS THE WITCH'S GOLD WILL BECOME THE NEXT HEAD OF THE USHIROMIYA FAMILY!
I WILL BECOME THE SUCCESSOR! THIS IS A CHANCE I NEVER EVEN DREAMED OF...!!

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Episode3:Banquet of the golden witch

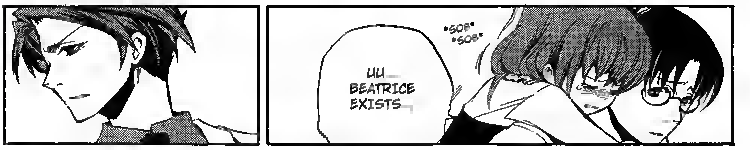
CHAPTER 4:[TENACITY]

原作・監修:竜騎士07
作画:夏海ケイ

©竜騎士07/07th Expansion

THE ADULTS TOTALLY CHANGED AFTER MARIA READ THE WITCH'S LETTER ALOUD. THEY ALL CROWDED OUTSIDE GRANDFATHER'S STUDY TO QUESTION HIM ABOUT HIS TRUE INTENTIONS.
IT SEEMS THAT GRANDFATHER WOULDN'T RESPOND, BUT HE ALSO DIDN'T DENY THE CONTENTS OF THE LETTER... WHICH IS PRETTY MUCH THE SAME THING AS SILENTLY CONFIRMING IT.

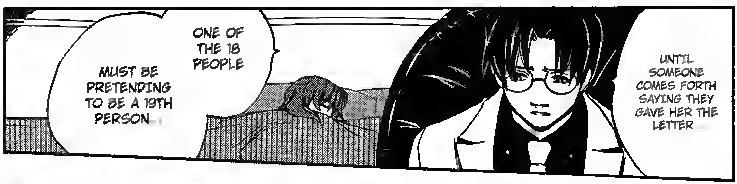
SINCE GRANDFATHER WOULDN'T TALK TO THEM, THE ADULTS STARTED CROSS-EXAMINING MARIA ABOUT WHO SHE GOT THE LETTER FROM.
BUT I GUESS THEY THOUGHT THEY WOULDN'T GET ANYWHERE WITH MARIA INSISTING SHE GOT IT FROM BEATRICE
SINCE THEY ORDERED US TO TAKE MARIA BACK TO THE GUEST HOUSE AND RETURNED TO THEIR ROTTEN DISCUSSION.

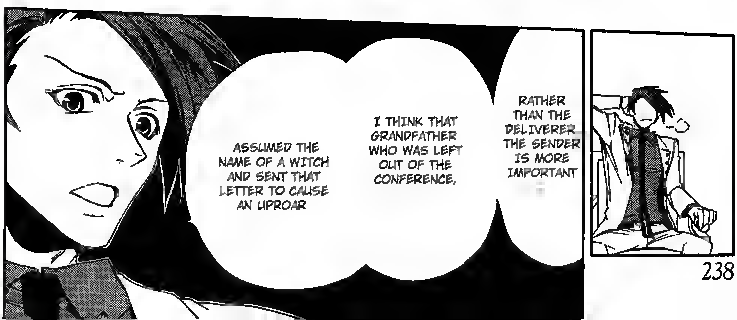

SOB
SOB
UU... BEATRICE EXISTS...

AAH...
THAT WAS AWFUL... NOBODY EVEN TRIED TO HIDE THEIR GREED GOING ON ABOUT MONEY LIKE THAT...
DO THEY REALLY WANT THE INHERITANCE THAT BADLY...?
IT'S ADULT TALK...
IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU YOUNG ONES. LET'S FORGET ABOUT IT...
KINZO'S PHYSICIAN TERUMASA NANJO

IF WE ALL DON'T BELIEVE IN THIS HAPPINESS, IT'LL WILL GO AWAY!
LILI-! LILI-! LILI-!
LILI-! DON'T BE GLOOMY!
BELIEVE!
THAT'S RIGHT.
WE ALL PROMISED.

THERE'S NO ONE BUT US 18 PEOPLE ON THE ISLAND...
IT'S UNREALISTIC TO THINK SOME UNKNOWN 19TH PERSON HANDED MARIA-CHAN A LETTER AND IS HIDING SOMEWHERE IN THIS RAIN
...STILL, I WONDER WHO MARIA-CHAN GOT THAT LETTER FROM...


ONE OF THE 18 PEOPLE MUST BE PRETENDING TO BE A 19TH PERSON...
UNTIL SOMEONE COMES FORTH SAYING THEY GAVE HER THE LETTER...


ASSUMED THE NAME OF A WITCH AND SENT THAT LETTER TO CAUSE AN UPROAR
I THINK THAT GRANDFATHER WHO WAS LEFT OUT OF THE CONFERENCE,
RATHER THAN THE DELIVERER, THE SENDER IS MORE IMPORTANT

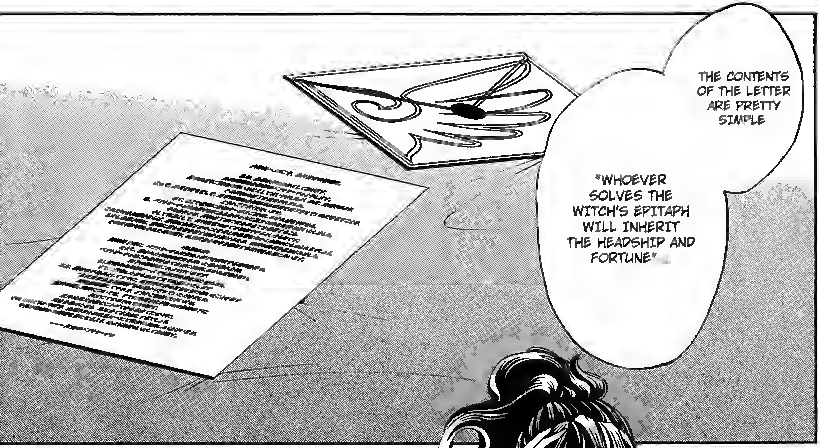
IF HE HAD SHANNON PUT ON THE DRESS FROM THE PORTRAIT, MARIA WOULD PROBABLY BELIEVE IT WAS BEATRICE
DAMMIT TOYING WITH MARIA'S PURE HEART
IF SHE SAYS SHE GOT IT FROM BEATRICE, LET'S GO WITH THAT
TO MARIA-CHAN WITCHES ARE KIND OF LIKE SANTA CLAUS
LET'S DO THAT
SANTA CLAUS
AS LONG AS WE ACKNOWLEDGE HIM, HE'LL AT LEAST "EXIST" IN MARIA'S MIND
... BUT ...
IT'S BEEN RUMORED... THAT SINCE LONG AGO, SOMEONE WE DON'T KNOW HAS BEEN LIVING ON THIS ISLAND...

.....?
WHO? WHERE?
OBVIOUSLY
...
IN THE FOREST

LIVES THE MASTER OF ROKKENJIMA AT NIGHT...
BEATRICE ...
ﾌﾈ...

ゾロ
WELL THEN, EXCUSE ME
IF YOU NEED ANYTHING PLEASE CALL ME

SO, WHO'S RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS LETTER? CURSING AT EACH OTHER WON'T GET US ANYWHERE.
...STILL...

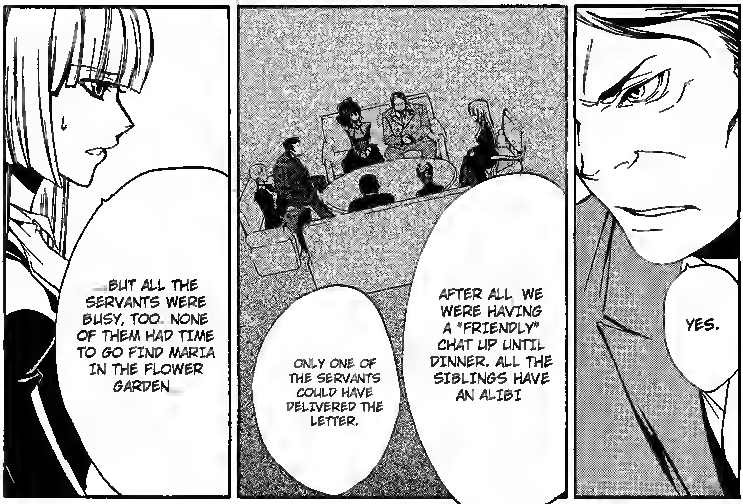

THE CONTENTS OF THE LETTER ARE PRETTY SIMPLE
"WHOEVER SOLVES THE WITCH'S EPITAPH WILL INHERIT THE HEADSHIP AND FORTUNE"

IT'S THE UNSHAKABLE TRUTH THAT MY HUSBAND IS THE NEXT HEAD OF THE USHIROMIYA FAMILY.
TO THINK THAT GROWN ADULTS WOULD TAKE SUCH A RIDICULOUS PRANK SO SERIOUSLY I'M SURE FATHER WAS SO SHOCKED HE WOULDN'T EVEN RESPOND
10TH RANKED KRAUSS' WIFE
USHIROMIYA NATSUHI

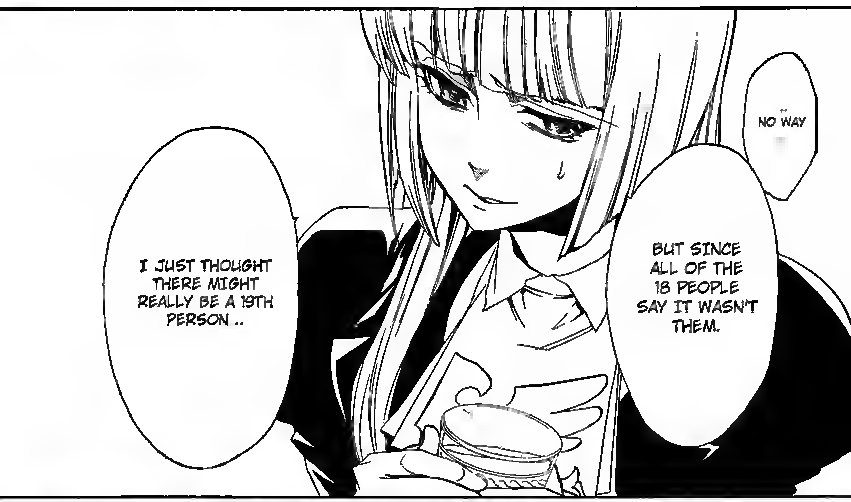
IT MUST BE A HUGE LOSS FOR YOU TO BE DRAGGED DOWN FROM YOUR POSITION AS THE NEXT HEAD
I UNDERSTAND WHY YOU DON'T WANT TO ACCEPT IT
WELL, DON'T SAY THAT, NATSUHI I'M SURE THAT TO MY MONEY-TROUBLED LITTLE SIBLINGS, THE CONTENTS ARE JUST CHARMING. SO MUCH SO THAT THEY'D EVEN JUMP AT A FAKE.
2ND RANKED KINZO'S OLDEST SON USHIROMIYA KRAUSS
WHOEVER HANDED MARIA-CHAN THAT LETTER IS STILL ON THIS ISLAND
THE SENDER IS A MYSTERY ITS AUTHENTICITY IS A MYSTERY
AND ITS PURPOSE IS A MYSTERY
STILL
IT BUGS ME THAT "WHOEVER SOLVES THE EPITAPH" ISN'T LIMITED TO FAMILY MEMBERS
...THE ONLY THING WE KNOW FOR SURE IS THAT...
THERE'S A POSSIBILITY THAT SOME RANDOM GUY COULD COME SNATCH EVERYTHING AWAY
12TH RANKED RUDOLF'S SECOND WIFE USHIROMIYA KYRIE

I...
I WONDER...
5TH RANKED
KINZO'S YOUNGEST
DAUGHTER
USHIROMIYA ROSA
...IT'S RAINING HARD
I WONDER IF THAT 19TH PERSON THE WITCH IS TAKING SHELTER SOMEWHERE RIGHT NOW
THE WITCH BEATRICE WHO GAVE MARIA-CHAN THE LETTER...
THE MYSTERIOUS 19TH VISITOR
IN A MYSTERY NOVEL SHE WOULD BE ONE OF THE 18 PEOPLE PRETENDIN' TO BE SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T EXIST

...I FIND GENJI AND THE OTHERS SUSPICIOUS
NO MATTER HOW MUCH BLAME WE'D RECIEVE WE SHOULD HAVE DISMISSED THE SERVANTS OF THE ONE-WINGED EAGLE.
...SO NII-SAN, EVEN YOU AGREE THAT THE LETTER WAS DELIVERED BY ONE OF THE SERVANTS
DON'T SAY THAT WE OWE THEM FOR THEIR LONG SERVICE
...EVEN THOUGH IT'S HARD TO TRUST THEM BECAUSE THEY'RE FATHER'S UNDERLINGS

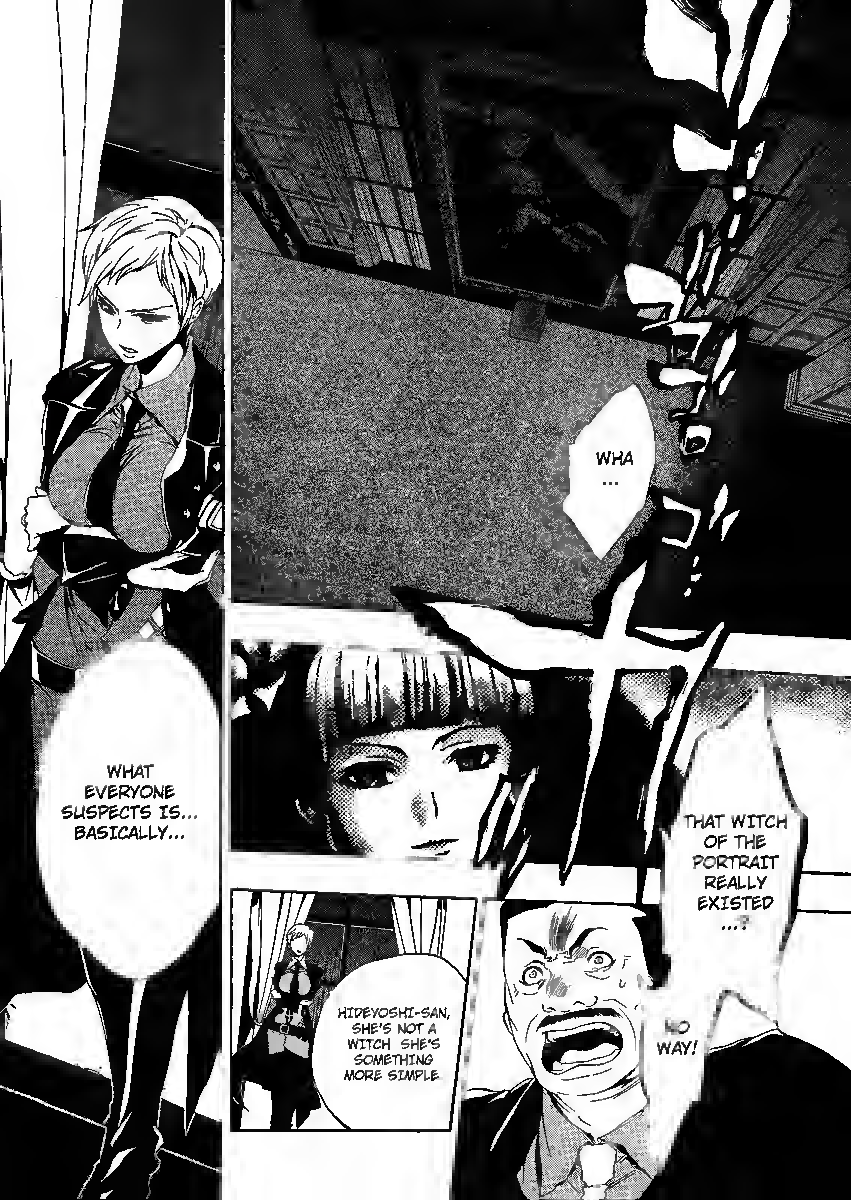

...BUT ALL THE SERVANTS WERE BUSY, TOO. NONE OF THEM HAD TIME TO GO FIND MARIA IN THE FLOWER GARDEN...
ONLY ONE OF THE SERVANTS COULD HAVE DELIVERED THE LETTER.
AFTER ALL WE WERE HAVING A "FRIENDLY" CHAT UP UNTIL DINNER. ALL THE SIBLINGS HAVE AN ALIBI
YES.

...IF SHE EXISTS, I'D LOVE FOR HER TO APPEAR.
BUT NO MATTER HOW MUCH I WISHED FOR IT, SHE NEVER APPEARED BEFORE ME SHE NEVER SAVED ME FROM MY CRISIS
DON'T TELL ME YOU STILL BELIEVE IN HER AT THIS AGE? THAT WITCH OF THE FOREST
ROSA, YOU USED TO BE TERRIFIED OF HER BACK WHEN YOU BELIEVED IN HER
HEY, HEY! THEN WHAT?
DID THE WITCH OF THE FOREST BEATRICE REALLY COME AND GIVE MARIA THAT LETTER?


..
NO WAY
BUT SINCE ALL OF THE 18 PEOPLE SAY IT WASN'T THEM.
I JUST THOUGHT THERE MIGHT REALLY BE A 19TH PERSON ..

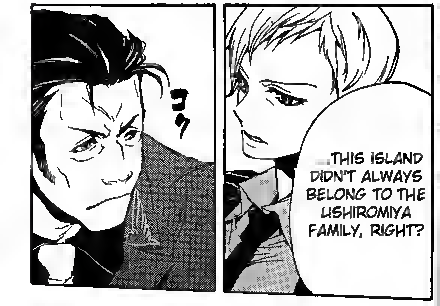
I HEARD THAT THE LEGEND ABOUT HOW A WITCH PROWLS AROUND IN THE FOREST OF ROKKENJIMA LOOKIN' FOR SACRIFICES
IS JUST SOME FAIRY TALE MADE UP TO KEEP KIDS FROM GOIN' INTO THAT DANGEROUS, SAVAGE FOREST.
THINKING THERE'S A 19TH PERSON OR A WITCH OF THE FOREST IS TOTALLY UNREASONABLE!
THAT'D BE DIFFICULT, WOULDN'T IT?
WE WERE THE ONLY ONES ON THE BOAT. THERE WASN'T A MYSTERIOUS PASSENGER.
AND NO ONE COULD'VE SAILED OVER THAT ROUGH SEA.
THAT'S THE LOGICAL RESPONSE
HUH?

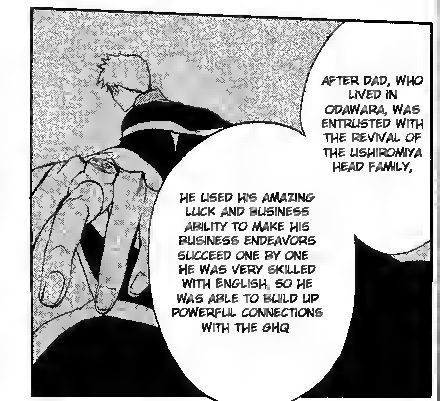
BUT... THAT WOMAN IN THE PORTRAIT, BEATRICE ...
BUT THERE COULD STILL BE PEOPLE WE CAN'T ACCOUNT FOR.
WELL ...
IT IS FATHER, AFTER ALL ...
AGAIN WE INSULT FATHER LIKE THIS ...
KYRIE-SAN
MIGHT HAVE REALLY EXISTED ON THIS ISLAND.
DON'T MISUN-DERSTAND THIS...
WE DON'T REALLY BELIEVE IN THE FAIRY TALE LEGEND OF THE WITCH.


WHA
...
NO WAY!
THAT WITCH OF THE PORTRAIT REALLY EXISTED ...?
HIDEYOSHI-SAN, SHE'S NOT A WITCH SHE'S SOMETHING MORE SIMPLE
WHAT EVERYONE SUSPECTS IS... BASICALLY...

SOMEWHERE ON THIS ISLAND
FATHER WAS HIDING A MISTRESS NAMED BEATRICE... RIGHT?

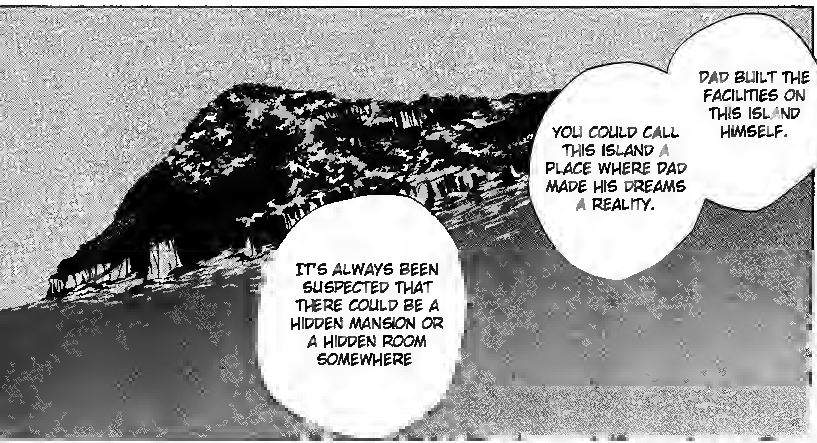
I CANNOT IMAGINE THAT FATHER WOULD BRING SOMETHING SO FILTHY ONTO THIS ISLAND..!
.. SORRY, NATSUHI-NEE-SAN, I KNOW YOU REALLY RESPECT FATHER, BUT WE'VE SUSPECTED THIS FOR A LONG TIME..


コク
..THIS ISLAND DIDN'T ALWAYS BELONG TO THE ISHIROMIYA FAMILY, RIGHT?


AFTER DAD, WHO LIVED IN ODAWARA, WAS ENTRUSTED WITH THE REVIVAL OF THE ISHIROMIYA HEAD FAMILY,
HE USED HIS AMAZING LUCK AND BUSINESS ABILITY TO MAKE HIS BUSINESS ENDEAVORS SUCCEED ONE BY ONE HE WAS VERY SKILLED WITH ENGLISH, SO HE WAS ABLE TO BUILD UP POWERFUL CONNECTIONS WITH THE GHQ

A...A MISTRESS
ON THIS ISLAND...?

AFTER THAT, HE MADE EVEN MORE OF A PROFIT OFF OF THE EMERGENCY DEMANDS MADE FOR THE KOREAN WAR, AND COMPLETELY REVIVED THE USHIROMIYA FAMILY. THEN HE WAS ABLE TO PURCHASE ROKKENJIMA USING HIS CONNECTIONS WITH THE GHQ AND HIS ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF MONEY.
AT THAT TIME, JAPAN HAD JUST COME OUT OF THE WAR. IT WAS AN ERA WHERE THE GHQ AND MACARTHUR WERE IN CHARGE.


DAD BUILT THE FACILITIES ON THIS ISLAND HIMSELF.
YOU COULD CALL THIS ISLAND A PLACE WHERE DAD MADE HIS DREAMS A REALITY.
IT'S ALWAYS BEEN SUSPECTED THAT THERE COULD BE A HIDDEN MANSION OR A HIDDEN ROOM SOMEWHERE

IN THE PAST, HE WOULD ALWAYS SUDDENLY DISAPPEAR WITHOUT ANY NOTICE. SWAPPING THE LEGEND OF THE WITCH WITH THE THEORY OF A MISTRESS, IT'S BEEN WHISPERED THAT HE WAS SNEAKING OUT TO GO SEE HIS LOVER..
FATHER HAS ALWAYS CLAIMED THAT THE FUNDS HE USED TO REVIVE THE HEAD FAMILY WERE GRANTED TO HIM BY A WITCH, BUT ..

THERE WAS ALSO THE STORY ABOUT HOW THE WITCH WOULD COME OUT OF THE FOREST ON STORMY NIGHTS. THIS IS SUCH AN ISOLATED ISLAND. WE ALWAYS THOUGHT THE RUSTLING OF THE TREES ON A STORMY NIGHT COULD BE SOME KIND OF MYSTERIOUS BEING. IT WAS THE KIND OF WILD IDEA ANY KID COULD HAVE.
BUT WHEN ROSA AND I WHINED ABOUT IT, THERE WERE SOME PEOPLE WHO COULDN'T WRITE IT OFF AS SOME BRAT'S DELUSION.
...HAA.
NII-SAN, MOTHER, AND I THOUGHT THAT YOU TWO MIGHT HAVE SPOTTED THE MISTRESS WHO WAS HIDDEN ON THIS ISLAND TAKING A WALK WHEN SHE THOUGHT NO ONE WAS LOOKING.
EVEN AMONG THE OLDER SERVANTS, THERE WAS THE GHOST STORY THAT THE WITCH OF THE PORTRAIT WOULD WANDER ABOUT THE MANSION AT NIGHT. OUTWARDLY, I LAUGHED IT OFF, BUT DEEP DOWN I STRONGLY SUSPECTED THAT HE HAD A SECRET LOVER.
MOTHER THOUGHT THE SAME THING. WHEN SHE WAS ALIVE, SHE'D SCOUR THE MANSION WHENEVER FATHER WASN'T AROUND.
AT FIRST, WE SAID THAT HIS MISTRESS WAS PROBABLY HIDDEN SOMEWHERE IN THE MANSION. THAT MAYBE THERE WAS A HIDDEN ROOM OR A SECRET BASEMENT...

AND HE'D ALWAYS JUST SUDDENLY SHOW UP SOMEWHERE AFTERWARDS
SO WHENEVER FATHER SUDDENLY DISAPPEARED, MOTHER WOULD GO INTO A CRAZE AND ORDER THE SERVANTS TO SEARCH THE WHOLE HOUSE. BUT SHE NEVER MANAGED TO FIND FATHER EVEN ONCE ..
HE'D SAY HE'D BEEN TAKING A NAP IN HIS STUDY OR GOING FOR A STROLL ON THE BEACH.. BUT THE SERVANTS HAD ALWAYS ALREADY CHECKED THOSE PLACES, YOU KNOW?
WE FIGURED HE WAS SNEAKING OFF TO A HIDDEN HOME IN THE FOREST HE HAD BUILT FOR HIS MISTRESS.
NO MATTER HOW THOROUGHLY THE INSIDE OF THE MANSION WAS SEARCHED, HE COULD NEVER BE FOUND. SO WE FIGURED HE MUST HAVE GONE OUTSIDE THE MANSION. . IT BECAME RUMORED THAT HE WAS GOING INTO THE FOREST.
...IN THE PAST, I ONCE TRIED TO FIND WHERE FATHER WAS HAVING HIS AFFAIR BY ATTEMPTING TO SHADOW HIM

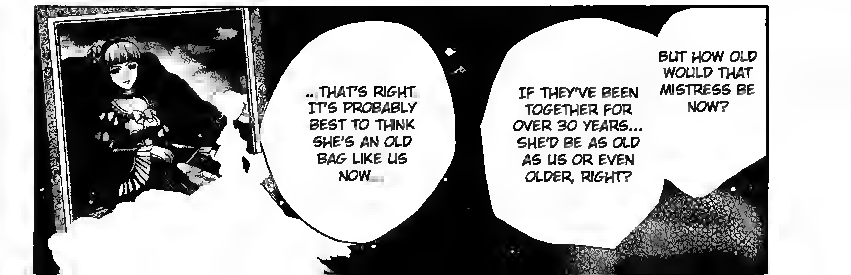
BUT THAT JUST CONFIRMED IT. THERE WAS NO MISTAKE THAT HE WAS GOING OUT FOR A REASON HE COULDN'T REVEAL TO HIS FAMILY.
..OF COURSE, I FAILED. WHENEVER FATHER WENT OUTSIDE, HE WAS STRANGELY CAUTIOUS ABOUT NOT BEING SEEN BY OTHERS
...WHEN DID THE RUMORS ABOUT FATHER'S MISTRESS START?
ABOUT 30 YEARS AGO. THEY STARTED AS SOON AS WE MOVED TO THE ISLAND.
IF HE DID HAVE A HIDDEN MANSION BUILT, IT MUST HAVE BEEN AT THE SAME TIME AS THE MAIN RESIDENCE. OTHERWISE WE'D HAVE FOUND OUT BECAUSE WE'D SEE THE CONTRACTORS COMING AND GOING
IF THE WOMAN IN THE PORTRAIT WAS REALLY THE ONE WHO LOANED HIM THE VAST AMOUNT OF GOLD HE USED TO REVIVE THE HEAD FAMILY, THEY MUST HAVE BEEN INTIMATE BEFORE THAT. JUDGING BY THE SHEER QUANTITY OF THE GOLD, THEY MUST SHARED A VERY OLD AND DEEP BOND.

SO FATHER HAD THE PERSON WHO GRANTED HIM ALL THAT GOLD, HIS BENEFACTOR AND MISTRESS, LIVE IN A HIDDEN MANSION AND ALWAYS WENT OFF TO SEE HER...
...IS THAT HOW IT WAS?
DEEP IN THE FOREST OF A SMALL, ISOLATED ISLAND
IN A MANSION NO ONE KNEW ABOUT
A BLONDE WOMAN QUIETLY LIVED IN SECRET...
SOUNDS ALMOST LIKE A FAIRY TALE.
SEEMS LIKE THE TYPE OF SITUATION FATHER WOULD LIKE. HE COULD HAVE REALIZED ANY OF HIS DELUSIONS WITH THAT MONEY OF HIS.
.....

HUH?
...BUT IS THAT REALLY FEASIBLE?
IF WE THINK ABOUT IT REALISTICALLY... WOULD IT BE FEASIBLE FOR HIM TO HOUSE THE WOMAN HE LOVES IN THAT HIDDEN MANSION FOR DECADES WITHOUT ANY INCONVENIENCE?
KEEPING ALL THAT UP WITHOUT HIS FAMILY NOTICING... DO YOU THINK HE COULD DO IT?
THERE'S ALSO CLOTHES, MAKEUP, AND DAILY NECESSITIES... A WOMAN'S NEEDS AREN'T SIMPLE.
THERE ARE MANY FACILITIES FATHER WOULD HAVE TO PREPARE FOR HIS BELOVED. EVEN IF IT WAS SMALL, IT WOULD HAVE TO BE A REFINED AND COMFORTABLE RESIDENCE. IT WOULD ALSO NEED TO HAVE ELECTRICITY, GAS, AND RUNNING WATER MAINTAINED... SHE MIGHT ALSO NEED CARETAKERS. MEALS COULD ALSO BE DIFFICULT.
...YOU DO HAVE A POINT..

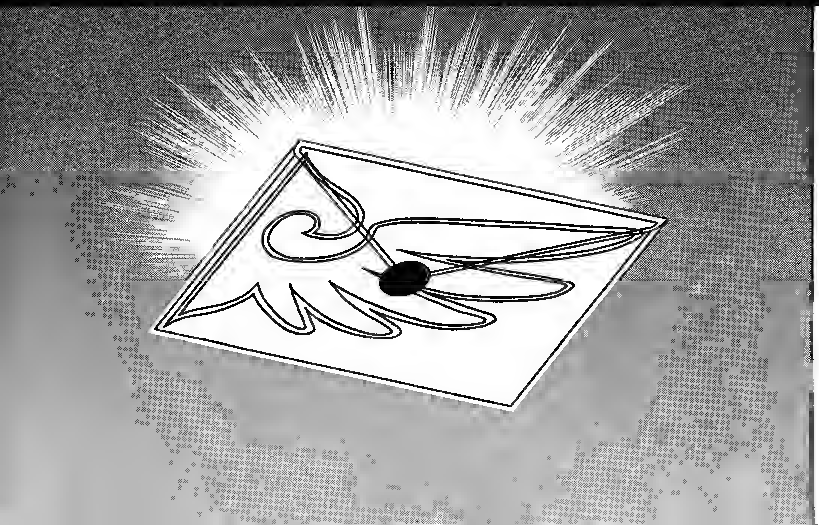
FATHER'S MADNESS CAN'T BE MEASURED BY AN ORDINARY PERSON'S STANDARDS.
...BUT THIS IS USHIROMIYA KINZO WE'RE TALKING ABOUT. WHEN FATHER WANTS TO ACCOMPLISH SOMETHING, HE WILL ACCOMPLISH IT NO MATTER WHAT.

I GUESS THE IDEA OF A 19TH PERSON BEIN' ON THE ISLAND MIGHT NOT BE SO RIDICULOUS...
IT'D PROBABLY BE BETTER TO CONTINUE THIS TALK ASSUMIN' THERE IS ONE...
...I SEE...


..THAT'S RIGHT. IT'S PROBABLY BEST TO THINK SHE'S AN OLD BAG LIKE US NOW...
IF THEY'VE BEEN TOGETHER FOR OVER 30 YEARS... SHE'D BE AS OLD AS US OR EVEN OLDER, RIGHT?
BUT HOW OLD WOULD THAT MISTRESS BE NOW?

EVEN IF THIS MISTRESS WERE TO HYPOTHETICALLY OBTAIN A RANK IN THE ISHIROMIYA FAMILY, SO LONG AS FATHER'S BLOOD DOESN'T FLOW THROUGH HER VEINS, SHE'LL BE RANKED EVEN LOWER THAN MARIA-CHAN. THAT'S NOT A GOOD POSITION FOR JOINING IN THE BATTLE OVER THE INHERITANCE.
IMPOS-SIBLE.
SO SHE'LL BE ALL READY TO ENCROACH ON THE STRUGGLE OVER THE INHERITANCE?
WHICH MEANS...SHE'LL PROBABLY WANT TO JOIN IN ON THE PROBLEM OF FATHER'S INHERITANCE. AFTER ALL, IT'S HIGHLY POSSIBLE THAT THEIR LOVE WAS MUTUAL.
SHE MIGHT PROUDLY CONSIDER HERSELF HIS LEGAL WIFE.

WHOEVER SOLVES THE WITCH'S EPITAPH WILL INHERIT THE HEADSHIP AND FORTUNE



IF SOMEONE SOLVES THE EPITAPH, THEY WILL RECEIVE THE INHERITANCE REGARDLESS OF RANK. SO SHE'S SET OUT CONDITIONS THAT ARE INCREDIBLY ADVANTAGEOUS FOR HER...
...I SEE... I SEE WHAT HER GOAL IS...!
...THIS IS BAD THIS ISN'T JUST ADVANTAGEOUS FOR BEATRICE...
...WHAT'S WRONG, KYRIE?
THE REVIVAL OF THE USHIROMIYA FAMILY WAS BROUGHT ABOUT BY BEATRICE'S GOLD AND KINZO'S GOOD LUCK.
BECAUSE IT'S A FORTUNE THAT THE TWO OF THEM BUILT UP, IT'S NATURAL FOR BEATRICE TO BELIEVE SHE WILL INHERIT IT.
AND BEATRICE IS KINZO'S ALCHEMY COUNSELOR...
THE PERSON PRESENTING A RIDDLE ALWAYS KNOWS THE ANSWER.

THERE'S NO WAY THAT SHE, THE SUPERVISOR OF THE GOLD, WOULDN'T KNOW THE GOLD'S LOCATION..
THE MOMENT SHE REVEALS THE ANSWER, SHE'LL SNATCH AWAY BOTH THE GOLD AND THE INHERITANCE FROM US...!
TH...
THERE'S A LIMIT TO HOW IMPUDENT ONE CAN BE..!
ASSUMING THERE IS A MISTRESS, IT'S INCREDIBLY RECKLESS AND INSOLENT OF HER TO TRY TO STEAL THE INHERITANCE FROM THE SIDELINES! HOW SHAMELESS..!!

WHY IS SHE INFORMING US OF ITS EXISTENCE?
IF SHE ALREADY POSSESSES THE GOLD, SHE SHOULD BE ABLE TO JUST SILENTLY EMBEZZLE IT.
懐かしき、故郷を
黄金郷を目指す者よ、これを下りて
川を下れば、やがて里あり。
里にて二人が口にし岸を探れ。
ここに黄金郷への鍵が眠る。
鍵を手にせし者は、
従いて黄金郷へ旅立つべし。
鍵の選びし六人を生贄に捧げよ。
残されし者は寄り添いて二人を引き裂え
第四の暁に、頭を抉りて我が名を殺せ。
第五の暁に、胸を抉りて殺せ。
第六の暁に
第七
DOESN'T IT MAKE MORE SENSE TO THINK THAT SHE DOESN'T REALLY KNOW THE LOCATION OF THE GOLD AND IS JUST PLANNING TO SNATCH IT AWAY AFTER SHE HAS US SOLVE THE EPITAPH?
...NO.
WAIT A SECOND.
...YEAH.
THAT WOULD MAKE SENSE.
.....
...NO.
10ページ

BEATRICE PROBABLY POSSESSES THE 10 TONS OF GOLD... ...NO. SHE HAS TO POSSESS IT.
TURN THE CHESSBOARD AROUND AND THINK ABOUT IT.
IF BEATRICE WERE TO ONE-SIDEDLY REVEAL THE ANSWER TO THE RIDDLE
WOULD WE JUST OBEDIENTLY TURN OVER THE INHERITANCE? WOULD WE SURRENDER TO THE RIDDLE'S ANSWER?
UN-THINK-ABLE!!
...EXACTLY. WE'D PROB-ABLY JUST FIND SOME KIND OF FAULT AND COMPLAIN.
BUT THAT WOULD BE A PROBLEM FOR BEATRICE UNLESS THERE IS A COMPELLING FORCE TO MAKE THE LOSERS HAND OVER THE INHERITANCE, THE GAME WON'T SUCCEED. THAT COMPELLING FORCE IS THE 10 TONS OF GOLD.

THE INHERI-
TANCE OF THE
GLORIOUS
USHIROMIYA
FAMILY FOR
MONEY...?!
A...
ARE YOU
SAYING SHE
PLANS TO
EXCHANGE
BEATRICE
SURELY PLANS
TO REVEAL THE
WHEREABOUTS
OF THE 10 TONS
OF GOLD
AND USE THAT
GOLD TO PURCHASE
THE INHERITANCE
OF THE USHIROMIYA
FAMILY.
...YES.

HOW RIDICULOUS!! THIS IS BLASPHEMY AGAINST THE USHIROMIYA FAMILY!!
...LISTEN WITHOUT GETTING MAD
IS THE USHIROMIYA FAMILY REALLY THAT AFFLUENT RIGHT NOW?
A...AFFLUENCE IS NOT A MATTER OF FORTUNE, BUT A MATTER OF SPIRIT...
AT ANY RATE, I'VE HEARD THAT ALL OF YOU ARE IN UNFAVORABLE SITUATIONS

JUST HOW MUCH OF FATHER'S FORTUNE HAVE YOU WASTED?!
HUH?! YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S DEEPEST IN POVERTY HERE!
YOU KEEP BUILDING UP MORE COLLATERAL AS YOU KEEP WAGERING NEW BETS! AND THEN BECAUSE YOU DON'T WANT TO ADMIT YOUR LOSS, YOU GET INVOLVED IN EVEN MORE GAMBLES!
...I WON'T SAY WHO NEEDS IT THE MOST.
HOW DARE YOU SPEAK THAT WAY THE NEXT HEAD!

10 TONS IS WORTH 2 BILLION ..NO, 20 BILLION YEN.
..AND BEATRICE POSSESSES 10 TONS OF GOLD ..
BUT RIGHT NOW, EVERY ONE OF US HERE IS HAVING TROUBLES CONCERNING MONEY.
IF 20 BILLION YEN WERE TO BE THRUST IN FRONT OF US, WE'D PROBABLY GO MAD AND ACCEPT HER AS THE NEXT HEAD.

...THIS...IS PRETTY CRAZY STUFF...
IT'S PROBABLY TOO OPTIMISTIC TO THINK SHE'D GIVE US ALL 10 TONS... BUT EVEN 10% OF THAT WOULD BE ENOUGH TO HAVE ME LEAPING AT THE OFFER.
I DON'T HAVE ANY ATTACHMENT TO THE USHIROMIYA FAMILY NAME. I'D HAPPILY LET HER HAVE IT...
THE AMOUNT OF MONEY ISN'T THE ISSUE HERE! TO THROW AWAY THE GLORY OF THE USHI-ROMIYA FAMILY FOR MONEY...
DEAR?!
...NATSUHI, STAY QUIET FOR A BIT.

DON'T BE STUPID!
YOU WERE NEVER GETTIN' THE INHERI-TANCE IN THE FIRST PLACE! IF YOU THINK IN TERMS OF PROFIT AND LOSS THIS IS REALLY BENEFICIAL FOR US...!
...YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME... GIVING UP THE INHERITANCE TO SOME UNKNOWN WOMAN... JUST BECAUSE OF SOME MONEY...

NO, NO WAY!!
I'M GOING TO BECOME THE NEXT HEAD!
NO!
AND THIS WAS SUCH A PERFECT CHANCE!
.....

THE WITCH'S LETTER
IF HER GOAL IS THE INHERITANCE, ALL SHE HAS TO DO IS SHOW HERSELF, PRESENT THE GOLD, AND BUY OFF THE INHERITANCE.
BUT SHE WENT OUT OF HER WAY TO RILE LIS UP BY SAYING "IF YOU SOLVE THE EPITAPH, I WILL TURN OVER THE GOLD AND INHERITANCE."
..IS IT ARROGANCE..?
OR IS SHE PLAYING..?
..WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT..?
I TRIED TURNING THE CHESSBOARD AROUND IN MANY WAYS. WHAT LINE OF THOUGHT WOULD CAUSE HER TO TAKE SUCH ACTIONS...?
...AND?
ISN'T THAT ODD? WHY WOULD SHE NEED TO BURDEN HERSELF WITH SUCH A RISK?
THAT KIND OF PROVOCATION ONLY CREATES RISKS FOR HER.
IF BY ANY CHANCE ONE OF LIS SOLVES THE EPITAPH, HER PLAN WILL COME TO NOTHING

"AS IF YOU ALL COULD SOLVE SUCH A COMPLICATED RIDDLE.
TRY AND SOLVE IT IF YOU CAN.
NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU STRUGGLE, IT'S USELESS."
..THAT'S HOW I THINK IT IS.
SHE'S LOOKING DOWN ON US AND WANTS TO TOWER OVER US.
...IN OTHER WORDS, IT'S "ARROGANCE."

WHEN PEOPLE HAVE AN OVERWHELMING ADVANTAGE, THEY BECOME ARROGANT. AND IN ORDER TO SHOW OFF THEIR PREDOMINANCE TO THE LOSERS, THEY PURPOSELY BURDEN THEMSELVES WITH A TINY AMOUNT OF RISK.
MODERATE RISK MAKES VICTORY ALL THE MORE SWEETER.
THERE'S NOTHING MORE BORING THAN VICTORY WITHOUT RISK
.. I GET IT...
I ALSO...AM FOND OF THINGS LIKE THAT.
YOU SAY I CAN'T SOLVE THE WITCH'S EPITAPH...?
...BRING IT ON.

IF I DO SOLVE IT
YOU'LL MAKE ME THE NEW HEAD, WON'T YOU ...?

...I WILL...SOLVE THE RIDDLE...
I'LL TAKE THIS WITCH UP ON HER CHALLENGE.
THERE'S NO WAY THE REST OF THOSE STUPID SIBLINGS COULD SOLVE IT.
I WILL PROVE THAT I AM THE ONE QUALIFIED TO INHERIT THE USHIROMIYA FAMILY...!!
執念で拓いた当主への道――…。
JOKER 3 月号へつづく 2月22日(月)発売

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07th Expansion presents Welcome to Rokkenjima
WITH SHIROPRO

Episode 3：Banquet of the golden witch

CHAPTER 5: [CONFESSION]

原作・監修：竜騎士07
作画：夏海ケイ

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BUT THIS IS USHIROMIYA KINZO WE'RE TALKING ABOUT
WHEN FATHER WANTS TO ACCOMPLISH SOMETHING HE WILL ACCOMPLISH IT NO MATTER WHAT.
I JUST THOUGHT THERE MIGHT REALLY BE A 19TH PERSON ...
FATHER WAS HIDING A MISTRESS NAMED BEATRICE... RIGHT?
SOMEWHERE ON THIS ISLAND...
... I SEE.
GRANDFATHER HAD A MISTRESS NAMED BEATRICE KEPT AWAY IN A HIDDEN MANSION ...
WHICH MAKES HER THE 19TH PERSON!

IF I WERE TO SIMPLY SUSPECT ONE OF THE 18 I COULD EASILY DENY WITCHES.
BEATO ATTACKED THAT WEAK POINT AND I LOST MISERABLY
BEFORE, EVEN THOUGH I DENIED WITCHES I BROUGHT MYSELF TO AN IMPASSE BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANT TO SUSPECT ANY ONE OF THE 18.
BUT IF A 19TH PERSON WERE TO EXIST
BUT I ABSOLUTELY REFUSE TO DO THAT!
THOSE 18 ARE MY PRECIOUS RELATIVES AND THE RELIABLE SERVANTS! I WON'T SUSPECT ANY OF THEM!
THEN ON TOP OF DESTROYING THE REASONING THAT "BECAUSE IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR ALL OF THE 18, THE CRIME WAS COMMITTED WITH MAGIC AND THE CULPRIT IS A WITCH,"
I'LL ALSO BE ABLE TO CREATE A HUMAN CULPRIT THEORY WITH THIS 19TH PERSON AS THE CULPRIT!

IF A 19TH PERSON EXISTS, THEY CAN ALL BE EXPLAINED WITH A HANDFUL OF TRICKS WITHOUT ANY NEED FOR CONFUSION!
AND THE MYSTERY OF WHO GAVE MARIA THE LETTER... AND PLENTY OTHER THINGS!
THAT'S RIGHT. THE MURDERS OF KINOH-KUN AND AUNT NATSUHI IN THE FIRST GAME...
THE 19TH HUMAN WHO EXISTS ON ROKKENJIMA... GRANDFATHER'S MISTRESS, BEATRICE!
SHE'S THE CULPRIT!
UNLIKE HOW UNPREPARED YOU WERE UP UNTIL NOW, YOU NOW HAVE A COMPASS BEARING ON HOW TO FIGHT. WE COULD CALL THAT A DRAMATIC LEAP FORWARD.
THAT 19TH PERSON CULPRIT THEORY I THINK THAT IS A SPLENDID MOVE
CLAP CLAP CLAP

BATTLER-SAMA.
WOULD YOU LIKE SOME BLACK TEA AND COOKIES?
BAKING COOKIES IS A HOBBY OF MINE. I CAN VOUCH FOR THEIR TASTE.
RONOVE
HUH?
I'M BUSY RIGHT NOW.
I'LL EAT THEM WHEN I FEEL LIKE IT, SO LEAVE THEM OVER THERE AND GET LOST.
WHAT A PITY. THEY'RE SUCH WONDERFUL COOKIES, WASTED ON THE LIKES OF A HUMAN.
IF THEY GET COLD, YOU'LL REGRET IT.
PU KU KU
UGH
HEY. YOU... GOSSIPING ABOUT HER RIGHT AFTER YOU'VE BEEN SUMMONED?
TRULY. MILADY'S LAUGH IS SO UNDIGNIFIED.
SHE IS COMPLETELY UNSUITABLE TO BE THE MASTER OF SUCH A NOBLE DEMON AS MYSELF.
YOU ARE SO ANNOYING. BUT YOU'RE STILL BETTER THAN BEATO, WHO'S ALWAYS CACKLING IN MY EAR.
...
BY THE WAY, BATTLER-SAMA.

ABOUT THIS 19TH PERSON CULPRIT THEORY YOU MENTIONED... HAVE YOU MET THIS 19TH PERSON?
CAN YOU PROVIDE EVIDENCE THAT A 19TH PERSON EXISTS?
I CAN DEAL WITH THAT WITH A "DEVIL'S PROOF" ...!
I ALREADY READ THAT MOVE WAY AHEAD OF TIME ...!
HOW NAIVE ...
BECAUSE YOU CAN'T ELIMINATE THE POSSIBILITY THAT SHE'S JUST HIDING CLEVERLY IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO DENY THE EXISTENCE OF A 19TH PERSON! THEREFORE EVIDENCE IS UNNECESSARY!
BEING UNABLE TO MEET HER OR FIND HER ISN'T ENOUGH TO PROVE THAT SHE DOESN'T EXIST!

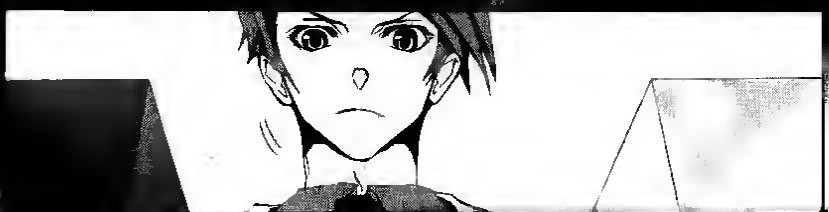
Devil
YOU GUYS TRIED TO USE THE DEVIL'S PROOF TO MAKE ME ACCEPT WITCHES
BUT I WILL USE IT TO INSIST ON THE EXISTENCE OF A 19TH PERSON!
The 19th
IF MY OPPONENT WERE HUMAN, THEY'D PROBABLY COMPLAIN THAT THIS IS AN IRRATIONAL, TWISTED ARGUMENT,
BUT THIS KIND OF DIRTY MOVE IS PERFECT FOR A FIGHT WITH YOU WITCHES AND DEMONS!!
Home
WITH THIS MOVE, I CAN ESTABLISH A HUMAN CULPRIT THEORY
WITHOUT HAVING TO SUSPECT ANY OF THE 18 PEOPLE WHO ARE SO CLOSE TO ME!
I SEE.
WHAT A BRILLIANT MOVE, TO TURN THE TABLES BY USING THE DEVIL'S PROOF AS THE MEANS OF A COUNTERATTACK

OH MY... HOW RUDE
SO YOU'VE SHOWN UP
YOUR LAUGH IS AS VULGAR AS ALWAYS RONOVE WAS EVEN BADMOUTHING YOU BEHIND YOUR BACK EARLIER
AS BATTLER'S OPPONENT, I SHOULD BE THE ONE TO MAKE THAT MOVE.
WELL, EVEN ASSUMING THERE IS A 19TH PERSON. THERE ARE STILL SOME TRICKS THAT CAN'T BE CLEARED UP WITH JUST THAT
BUT IT'S NOT A BAD START
CAN'T YOU WAIT, RONOVE?
DO NOT GET IN THE WAY OF MY FUN.
DON'T BE ABSURD! WHY WOULD I BADMOUTH MILADY, WHO I HOLD IN THE HIGHEST ESTEEM?
HEY YOU!
I HAVE STARTED TO GROW INTERESTED MYSELF
PERHAPS I SHOULD MAKE THE NEXT MOVE IN MILADY'S STEAD.
BRING IT ON. WHETHER MY OPPONENT'S A WITCH, OR DEMON, IT WON'T BE ENOUGH

NOW THEN

AND THIS BOX REPRESENTS THE 18 PEOPLE YOU LOVE SO MUCH.
O OKAY
OKAY, BATTLER
LET US HAVE THIS COOKIE REPRESENT THE CULPRIT.

BECAUSE YOU DON'T WANT TO SUSPECT THOSE 18 PEOPLE, YOU HAVE CREATED A NEW BOX CALLED THE 19TH PERSON
AND THUS THE COOKIE - THE CULPRIT - MUST BE INSIDE THE 19TH PERSON BOX.
YOU ARE CLAIMING THAT THE 18 PEOPLE BOX IS EMPTY



IN OTHER WORDS
IF I CAN PROVE THAT THE COOKIE IS NOT INSIDE THE 19TH PERSON BOX LIKE THIS
THAT MEANS YOU'LL HAVE TO ACCEPT THAT THE CULPRIT IS ONE OF THE 18 PEOPLE, RIIIGHT?!
!
WHAT DID YOU SAY ?!

W... WAIT!
IN THAT CASE, IF I PROVE THAT THE 18 PEOPLE BOX IS EMPTY
THAT CONFIRMS THAT THE CULPRIT IS A 19TH PERSON!
DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT'S POSSIBLE?
YOU DO NOT HAVE ONLY ONE BOX YOU MUST OPEN.
IN REALITY YOU MUST ESTABLISH AN ALIBI FOR ALL 18 PEOPLE
HOW DO YOU INTEND TO DO THAT ON AN ISLAND THAT THE POLICE WILL NEVER REACH, WHERE SCIENTIFIC CRIME DETECTION AND INVESTIGATIONS CAN NEVER BE CARRIED OUT?
ARE YOU GOING TO TIE THEM DOWN WITH CHAINS AND NEVER LET THEM OUT OF YOUR SIGHT FOR EVEN A SECOND? ALL 18 PEOPLE?
KUH ...
....!
YOUR 19TH PERSON CULPRIT THEORY COMES BEARING THE RISK
THAT YOU WILL HAVE TO ACCEPT THAT THE CULPRIT IS ONE OF THE 18 ONCE IT IS DENIED

JUST ONE!
I ONLY HAVE TO PROVE THE INNOCENCE OF THIS ONE 19TH PERSON IN ORDER TO DESTROY YOUR THEORY.
AND THEN YOU WILL ONCE AGAIN BE FORCED TO SUSPECT THE 18 PEOPLE.
.....
IF YOU FIND EVERY OBJECT THAT IS NOT BLACK IN THE WORLD AND A SINGLE RAVEN IS NOT AMONG THEM, YOU CAN PROVE THAT RAVENS ARE BLACK.
THE COOKIE MUST BE INSIDE ONE OF THEM
THE COOKIE IS NOT INSIDE
19
THE 19TH PERSON IS THE ONLY ONE OUTSIDE THE 18 PEOPLE. IF YOU FIND THAT THE 19TH PERSON IS NOT THE CULPRIT, THEN THE CULPRIT MUST BE AMONG THE 18 PEOPLE.
HEMPEL'S RAVEN IS THE FASTEST QED IN THE WORLD, WITH WHICH YOU CAN PROVE THAT A RAVEN IS BLACK WITHOUT EVER ACTUALLY SEEING A RAVEN
MILADY'S MOVE, "HEMPEL'S RAVEN," IS EFFECTIVE.
IN REGARDS TO YOUR THEORY. MILADY CAN OPEN ALL THE OTHER BOXES— IN OTHER WORDS, OPEN THE 19TH PERSON BOX, AND PROVE THAT THE CULPRIT MUST BE AMONG THE 18 WITHOUT OPENING THE 18 PEOPLE BOX.
BUT YOU DON'T WANT THAT, RIGHT, BATTLEBEER?
AFTER ALL YOU SAID YOU ABSOLUTELY WOULDN'T SUSPECT THE 18 PEOPLE WHO ARE SO CLOSE TO YOU

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS ACCEPT THAT A WITCH IS THE CULPRIT.
BUT THAT'S FINE, ISN'T IT? ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS GIVE UP ON YOUR HUMAN CULPRIT THEORY AND LEAVE THE COOKIE IN THIS BOX...
BEATO RETURNED MY QUIBBLE WITH SOME RIDICULOUS QUIBBLE OF HER OWN...
AND NOW I'M STILL TRAPPED IN THE DILEMMA OF THE 18 PEOPLE AND THE WITCH ..?!
SFX: AHAHAHAHAHA

THE 19TH PERSON'S INNOCENCE STILL HASN'T BEEN PROVEN. I SHOULD STILL BE ABLE TO COUNTER-ATTACK SOMEHOW.
...NO. DON'T BE CONFUSED BY HER WEIRD THEORIES ABOUT WHOEVER'S RAVEN.
...THAT'S RIGHT.
THE ONLY WAY I CAN RESPOND TO BEATO'S TWISTED LOGIC
...WAIT. I WANT TO CONFIRM SOMETHING.
...DO YOU GET IT? EVEN IF YOU PROVE THE ALIBI OF A 19TH PERSON, I CAN CLAIM THAT A 20TH, 21ST, 22ND... SOME UNKNOWN NTH PERSON IS THE CULPRIT!
EARLIER, I MENTIONED A "19TH PERSON," BUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT THERE ARE EVEN MORE PEOPLE HIDING ON THIS ISLAND CANNOT BE DENIED BECAUSE OF THE DEVIL'S PROOF.!
IS WITH EVEN MORE TWISTED LOGIC OF MY OWN ...!!

THIS IS FAIR MOVE IN A BATTLE OF TWISTED LOGIC!
YOU WILL PROTECT THE 18 PEOPLE FOR ETERNITY BY ENDLESSLY SUMMONING A FICTIONAL NTH PERSON AS A SACRIFICE
AN ENDLESS RETREAT... DO YOU PLAN TO TRIPLE WITH ME FOR ETERNITY THAT WAY?
HOW FOOLISH. ARE YOU AWARE OF WHO I AM?
OR ARE YOU SAYING YOU HAVE A WAY TO KILL MY ENDLESS? COME ON AND SHOW ME!
666
6512
308
715
1224
5038
34210
19
20
THE MOMENT I PROVE THE ALIBI OF A 19TH PERSON, YOU WILL CREATE A 20TH PERSON
I SEE
IF I CUT DOWN THAT 20TH PERSON, YOU WILL CALL A 21ST PERSON. WHEN THE 21ST PERSON IS CUT DOWN, YOU WILL CALL A 22ND. THEN YOU WILL CALL A 23RD PERSON, THEN A 6458235791320 4TH PERSON
SO I WILL NEVER FINISH PROVIDING ALIBIS FOR THEM FOR ALL ETERNITY
I'D EXPECT NOTHING LESS OF KINZO'S GRANDSON. I CAN SEE YOU HAVE QUITE THE TALENT AS A SUMMONER!
32
29
45
151
1129
647

IF I SAY IN RED HOW MANY PEOPLE THERE ARE ON THIS ISLAND, YOU WILL NO LONGER BE ABLE TO CLAIM THERE ARE ANY FICTIONAL HUMANS EXCEEDING THAT NUMBER!
I HAVE THE POWER TO SPEAK THE TRUTH IN RED!!
LET'S SEE...
WHAT TRUTH SHALL I SPEAK IN RED TO THROW YOU INTO THE DEPTHS OF DESPAIR THIS TIME?
SHOW ME YOUR USUAL FRIGHTENED FACE, BATTLER ...!

HEH...
SO YOU'VE TAKEN IT OUT AGAIN. YOUR TRUMP CARD, THAT TREASURED SWORD
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THAT.
YOU SUDDENLY LOOK SO COMPOSED
—WHAT'S THIS?

IF YOU SAY THE CULPRIT IS ONE OF THE 18 PEOPLE
THEN I'LL DEFINITELY FEEL SAD.
...WHAT DID YOU SAY?
SO, WHAT WILL YOU TELL ME WITH THAT DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD THIS TIME, OH, GREAT WITCH?
THE RED CERTAINLY IS SCARY... BUT I'VE FINALLY NOTICED.
IT'S A DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD. IF YOU USE IT CARELESSLY, YOU RUN THE RISK OF CUTTING YOURSELF DOWN.
BUT AT THAT TIME, IT'LL BE THE SAME THING AS YOU DENYING THE WITCH CULPRIT THEORY YOURSELF!
YOU'LL SELF-DESTRUCT AND THIS GAME WILL END IN MY VICTORY!
.....

I'VE BEEN INEXPERIENCED UP UNTIL NOW
WITHOUT KNOWING HOW TO FIGHT, I'VE COWERED AND FEARED THE RED AND HAVE BEEN FORCED TO DANCE TO HER TUNE.
BUT THE RED GIVES ME MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE TRUTH. IT CAN BECOME THE MEANS OF MY COUNTERATTACK.
IF BEATO STARTS RECKLESSLY ABUSING THE RED, IT'LL INCREASE MY CHANCES OF A COUNTERATTACK ..!
GET HER AGITATED...!
I'LL CORNER BEATO AND MAKE HER SPEAK THE TRUTH IN RED...!!
THIS IS THE GREATEST AND WORST BATTLE OF TWISTED LOGIC IN THE WORLD THIS IS STARTING TO GET INTERESTING
COME ON, IT'S YOUR TURN.
IN ORDER TO USE YOUR "HEMPEL'S RAVEN," FIRST YOU HAVE TO CONFIRM HOW MANY PEOPLE THERE ARE OUTSIDE THE 18 IN RED.
TAKE IT OUT, THAT TRUMP CARD OF YOURS.
YOU COULD GET ME TO COMPLETELY SURRENDER, RIGHT ..?
...
AND IF ON TOP OF THAT YOU DECLARE IN RED THAT NONE OF THEM ARE CULPRIT
THAT'LL BECOME A FATAL WOUND FOR

MILADY, I ADVISE YOU BE CAUTIOUS.
I KNOW
...NOW THAT IT'S THE THIRD GAME YOU'RE STARTED TO GET USED TO THIS, HUH, BATTLEEER...
...SO YOU WON'T MAKE A MOVE...?
...THEN ALLOW ME TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE...

IF YOU'RE ABLE TO SAY THAT IN RED, THEN I WILL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO SUSPECT ONE OF THE 18 PEOPLE! I'LL BE CORNERED ON ALL SIDES.
BUT I BELIEVE!
THERE'S NO WAY ONE OF THOSE 18 PEOPLE COULD HAVE COMMITTED SUCH CRUEL MURDERS ...!!
REPEAT THIS!!
"THERE ARE ONLY 18 PEOPLE ON THIS ISLAND"!!

I'VE MANAGED TO EVADE THE WORST POSSIBLE RED ...!!
THAT MEANS A 19TH PERSON EXISTS, AND SHE'S THE CULPRIT!
THAT'S RIGHT. NONE OF THE 18 PEOPLE ARE THE CULPRIT, AND WITCHES DON'T EXIST EITHER!
.....
I REFUSE.
...
I WON'T EXPLAIN WHY.

YOU'RE GRANDFATHER'S MISTRESS WHO'S BEEN LIVING ON THIS ISLAND IN SECRET. YOU'RE JUST THE HUMAN BEATRICE...!!
THAT'S RIGHT
YOU'RE NO WITCH. YOU'RE THE 19TH HUMAN!
TO THINK YOU WOULD CALL THE ENDLESS WITCH WHO HAS LIVED FOR A THOUSAND YEARS A MERE HUMAN...
KUKUKU
I'VE GOT ANOTHER REPETITION FOR YOU, OKAY? "THERE ARE AT LEAST 19 PEOPLE ON THIS ISLAND."
SO CAN YOU REFUTE THAT?

SO, WHAT WILL YOU DO...? BEATRICE ...!
BEATO'S PROBABLY REALLY NERVOUS THAT CONFIRMING THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE ON THE ISLAND MIGHT PUT HER AT A DISADVANTAGE.
SHE SHOULD WANT TO STRIKE ME DOWN RIGHT HERE.
BUT IF SHE DOESN'T DO THAT, SHE CAN'T USE HER HEMPEL'S RAVEN.
I'LL BE ABLE TO DEVELOP MY HUMAN CULPRIT THEORY BY INCREASING THE NUMBER OF FICTIONAL CHARACTERS X AS MUCH AS I WANT

...YOU MAY CONSIDER THE OPENING PHASE OF THIS GAME YOUR VICTORY.
...I REFUSE
...HEH
.....
DO AS YOU LIKE.
MY REASON FOR REFUSING TO REPEAT— I WON'T TELL YOU YET, BUT YOU WILL UNDERSTAND VERY SOON...
...THEN I'LL BE USING AS MANY FICTIONAL CHARACTERS X AS I WANT, OKAY?

A TREASURED SWORD IS BEST LEFT SHEATHED
—OH WELL
I WILL PUSH YOU DOWN EVENTUALLY ANYWAY, SO I MAY AS WELL LET YOU CLIMB A LITTLE BIT HIGHER—
OOH, HOW SCARY
I SEE
WHEN YOU REFUSE TO REPEAT SOMETHING, THERE'S NO WAY TO TELL WHETHER YOU REALLY CAN'T REPEAT IT LIKE I ASSUME OR YOU'RE JUST PURPOSELY MISLEADING ME THAT'S ANNOYING
I'LL HAVE TO BE CAREFUL NOT TO GET PUSHED DOWN
THAT WAS SPLENDID, BATTLER-SAMA.
NOW YOU HAVE AN ADVANTAGE FROM THE START

COME, HOW WOULD YOU TWO LIKE A REFILL OF TEA?
THAT'S AWFULLY SHADY. SINCE IT'S YOU WE'RE TALKING ABOUT. YOU PROBABLY THINK IT'S FUNNY THAT I JUST WALKED INTO SOME KIND OF TRAP, RIGHT?
CERTAINLY NOT! MY APPLAUSE IS COMPLETELY GENUINE
カチャ

WHOA, THAT WAS FAST. DID YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND?
...
THIS IS A PIECE THAT'S TOO VALUABLE TO OVERLOOK AFTER ALL.
...
VERY WELL
I WILL NOW LET YOU KNOW THE REASON WHY I REFUSED TO SPEAK IN RED AT THE START.
I WON'T USE THE RED.
BUT ROSA WILL NOW EXPLAIN IN MY STEAD.
...
AUNT ROSA WILL?

PEOPLE WHO ARE CRAFTY WITH MONEY SEEM LIKE THEY'RE HEALTHIER AN' LIVE LONGER AN' ALL THAT.
AT ANY RATE, WE HAVE TO JOIN FORCES TO PROTECT THE FORTUNE.
YEAH. AS IF WE'D LET BEATRICE BUTT IN.
DAD'S MISTRESS MUST BE GETTING OLD. SHE'S GOT SOME NERVE, PUTTING HER CRAFTINESS TO USE LIKE THIS.

WH... WHAT'S WRONG, ROSA-SAN?
A BED HAS BEEN PREPARED IN THE GUEST ROOM. I WILL GUIDE YOU THERE.
... ARE YOU ALRIGHT? YOU'VE LOOKED PALE FOR A WHILE NOW...
... CAN'T BE ... LIVE ...
.....

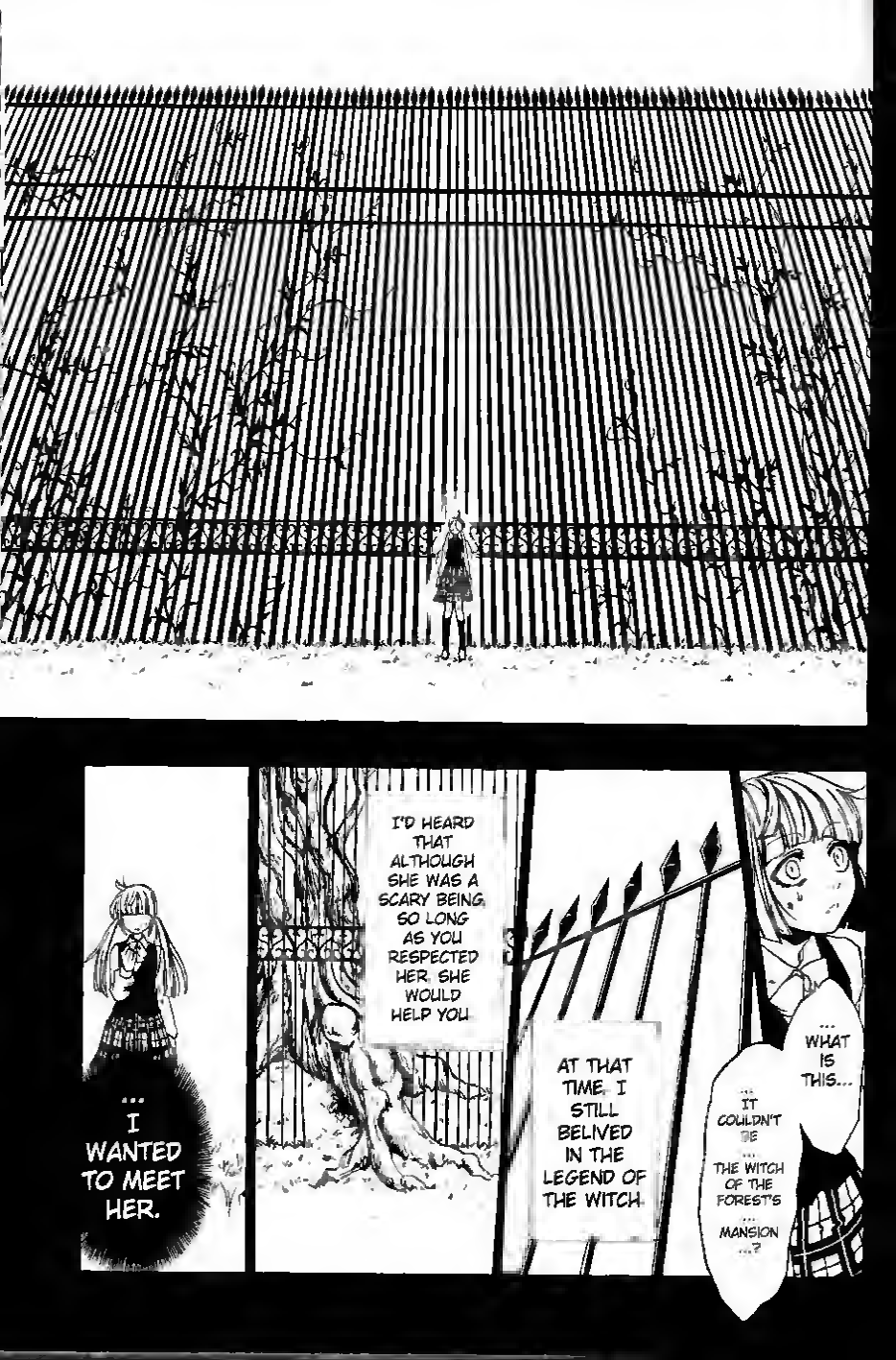
... WHAT?
THERE'S NO WAY
BEATRICE COULD BE ... ALIVE ...
BEA- TRICE ... ... IS DEAD ...
... HUH?
SHE SENT US THIS LETTER. SHE'S OBVIOUSLY ALIVE.

I
...
I
KILLED
HER
..!

IT WASN'T MY FAULT! I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG ...!
BUT I KILLED BEA-TRICE!
SO THIS MUST BE A LETTER FROM BEA-TRICE'S GHOST ...!!
C... CALM DOWN, ROSA-SAN.
CALM DOWN ...!

ABOUT 20 YEARS AGO... WHEN I WAS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL...
... THAT WAS PROBA-BLY ...
カチ!!
カチ!!
UNLIKE THE OTHER SIBLINGS, WHO WERE VERY SUCCESSFUL, MY GRADES WEREN'T VERY GOOD. MOTHER WAS ALWAYS ANGRY WITH ME...
THAT DAY, MOTHER HAD SCOLDED ME HARSHLY ...
... THAT WAS WHAT I THOU-GHT ...
I WAS SO MISE-RABLE I COULDN'T STAND IT
FOR WHAT REASON HAD I BEEN BORN?
I JUST WANTED TO RUN AWAY.

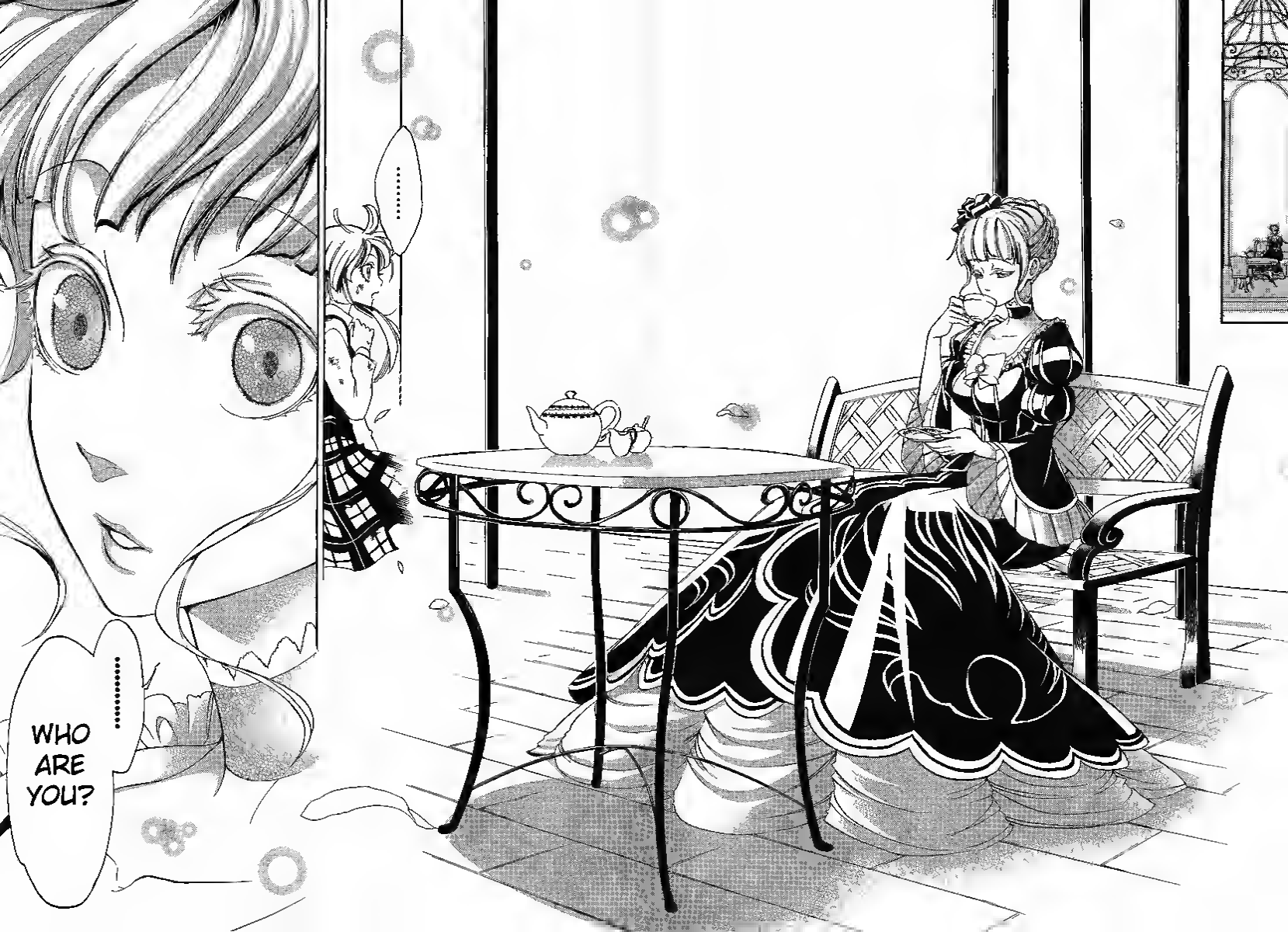
BUT THERE WAS NO PLACE TO GO FROM ROKKENJIMA.
I WENT TO THE SHORE, AND AS I WALKED ALONGSIDE THE OCEAN, I ENTERED THE FOREST...
I KEPT GOING DEEPER AND DEEPER IN...
I JUST BLINDLY MOVED FOR-WARD.
I WAN-TED TO DISAP-PEAR.
MAYBE I JUST WANTED TO DISAPPEAR TO MAKE MY PARENTS WORRY.
IT SUDDENLY BEGAN TO FEEL LIKE A MONSTER PATH.
I HAD NO IDEA WHICH DIRECTION I WAS WALKING.


... WHAT IS THIS...
... IT COULDN'T BE ... THE WITCH OF THE FOREST'S ... MANSION ...?
AT THAT TIME, I STILL BELIVED IN THE LEGEND OF THE WITCH.
I'D HEARD THAT ALTHOUGH SHE WAS A SCARY BEING, SO LONG AS YOU RESPECTED HER, SHE WOULD HELP YOU.
... I WANTED TO MEET HER.

I THOUGHT SHE MIGHT SAVE ME IF I MET HER.
I DIDN'T COME TO A GARDEN AS SOON AS I PASSED THROUGH THE FENCE.
I WALKED THROUGH EVEN MORE UNCULTI-VATED FOREST.
... AND THEN
THE FOREST SUD-DENLY OPENED UP.

IT WAS A VERY ELEGANT AND LOVELY MANSION.
.....
BUT THE FLOWER GARDEN WAS SO LOVINGLY ARRANGED THAT THE LANDSCAPE LOOKED FANTASTICAL...
IT WAS ABOUT TWICE AS SMALL AS OUR MANSION.
IT'S LIKE I'M IN A FAIRY TALE...
SO PRETTY ...

THIS IS LIKE A DREAM ...
SO THE WITCH'S MANSION REALLY EXISTED ...!


.....
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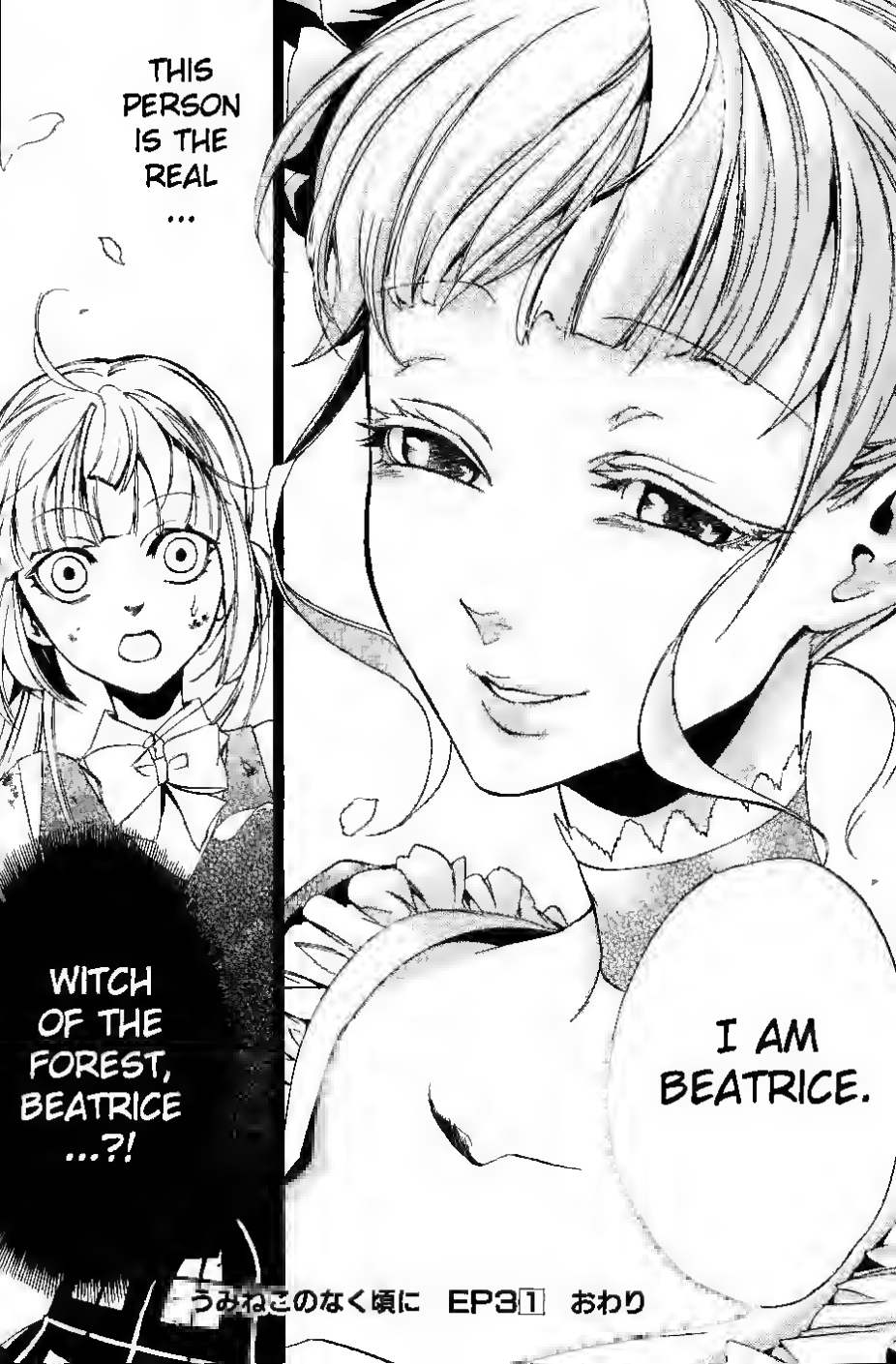
WHO ARE YOU?


THIS PERSON IS THE REAL ...
WITCH OF THE FOREST, BEATRICE ...?!
I AM BEATRICE.

お久しぶりです、夏海です。
三度目のゲーム 序盤戦はお楽しみいただけたでしょうか？
ＥＰ３は情報もヒントも満載ですので、
できるだけ漫画版にも反映させていきたいなあと思っております。
今回はＥＰ１で早期退場なさった皆様が活躍なさるので、
描いてて楽しい＆先を描くのが楽しみでなりません。
いつも丁寧にご指導、監修して下さいます編集野崎さん、小泉さん、
亀騎士さん並びに07thスタッフの皆様、ありがとうございます。
今後もよろしくお願いいたします。
では、次巻でまたお会いできますように／ シーユーアゲイン☆

Special Thanks

ひなた・ロドリケス弓井・黒木トミヨーリン・堀内麻衣・今井美どり・
なっる・水心寺りな・渡邊モヨ・葉乃はるか

& You

Natsumi Fuda
2010